

“Certainty in Uncertain Times”

Ecclesiastes 3:11; 9:11-12; James 4
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Faulty predictions
- Predictions people make about the “*end of the world*”
- In hindsight, we see that “*God makes everything beautiful in His time*”

“Certainty in Uncertain Times”

A. Why the uncertainty in life? —Ecclesiastes 3:11

1. God has “*put eternity in our hearts*”—a desire to know the future.
2. God has made life unpredictable.

B. How is life uncertain? Some examples:

1. One cannot predict what will make them successful in life. Ecclesiastes 9:11
 - a. Success appears to be a product of luck or chance than the product of careful planning
 - b. Does not mean that we should stop trying—Ecclesiastes 11:6
2. One cannot predict the sudden tragedies of life. Ecclesiastes 9:12
 - a. Accidents happen
 - b. Only a “fool” thinks he can forecast the future—Eccl. 10:14.

C. How many responds to the uncertainties of life?

1. Some become FRANTIC as they attempt to control, minimize, or eliminate the risks associated with the unknown.
 - a. Key is to plan for every contingency.
 - b. The Obsessed Planner in James 4
2. Some become FEARFUL as they worry about what might happen.
 - a. The “What If’s” of Worry
 - b. Jesus’ counsel for “Worry Warts”—Matthew 6

D. How should we respond to the uncertainties of life?

1. Entrust our uncertain futures into the hands of our certain God!
 - a. Does not mean that bad things will not happen to us.
 - b. Produces confidence that God’s in control and will provide.
2. Entrust our Eternal Future into the hands of our Certain God!
 - a. Man with a “God-shaped void” in their hearts
 - b. Man designed to live in relationship with God
 - c. We can “know” that we have eternal life—1 John 5:13