

# The Happiness Code

Week 6 – Vanity of Human Industry

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

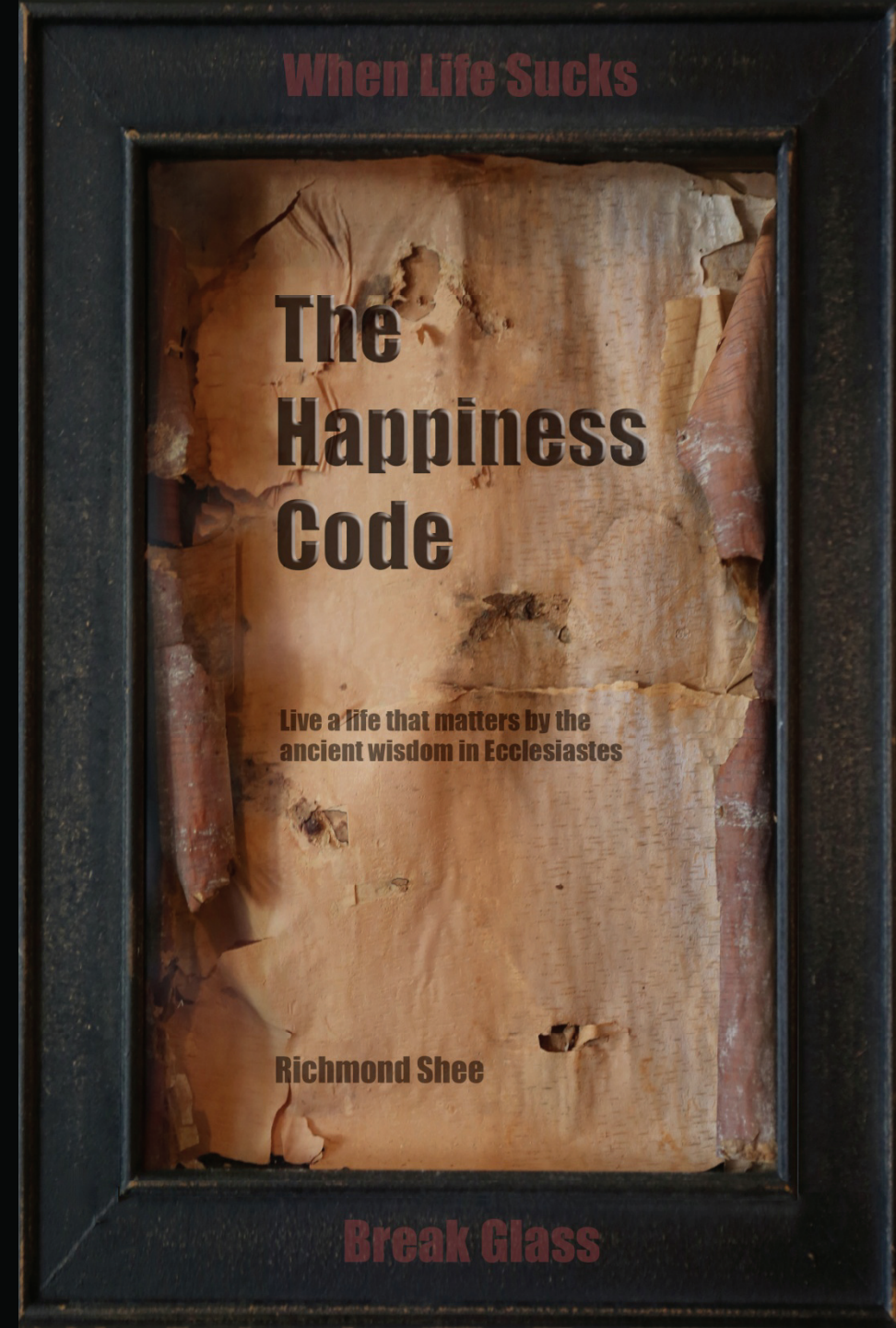


## Week #6: Level Set

Forget serving God, how would you like to live happily for self? Make your life what you want it to be; do whatever you want; go wherever you want; have everything your way.

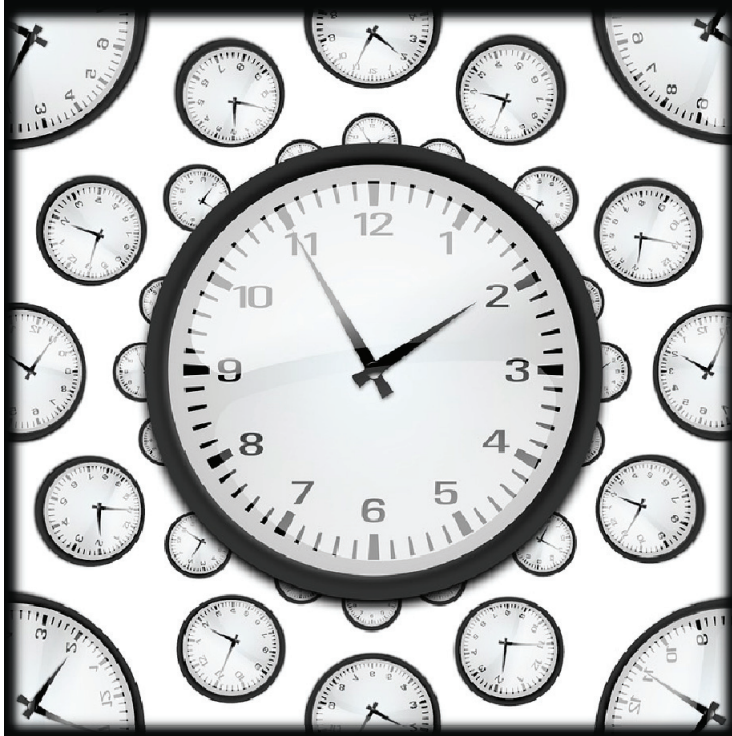
All you need is this ability. Without it, you will be singing “Que sera, sera, whatever will be, will be.”

E S T  N



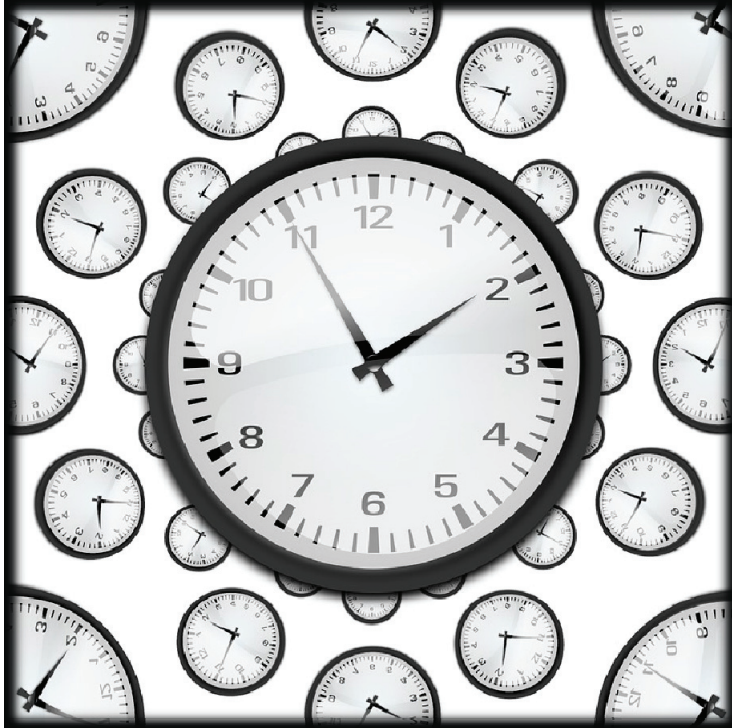


Ecc 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:



- “To every thing there is a season” → Everything has a season of existence. A window of time... e.g. You exist for a season.
- “A time to every purpose under the heaven” → When things happen or come into being for their intended purposes. You exist for a purpose. Whose purpose?  
**Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**
- Self-serving people’s recipe for happiness:
  - Deny God the pleasure due Him.
  - Deny themselves of God’s good purposes toward them.
- God has a purpose for your life.

Ecc 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:



- “Time” occurs 29x in verses 1–8, for a total of 31x in Ecc 3. There is an appointed time for everything to occur.
- God determines when things come into being, how long they last, and the circumstances of their existence.
- HUMANS VEHEMENTLY DISAGREE.



Oh Humans! Seriously?!?!?

**I AM  
THE MASTER OF  
MY FATE AND  
THE CAPTAIN OF  
MY DESTINY.**

- Nelson Mandela



You are the master of your destiny.  
You can influence, direct and control  
your own environment. You can  
make your life what you want it to be.

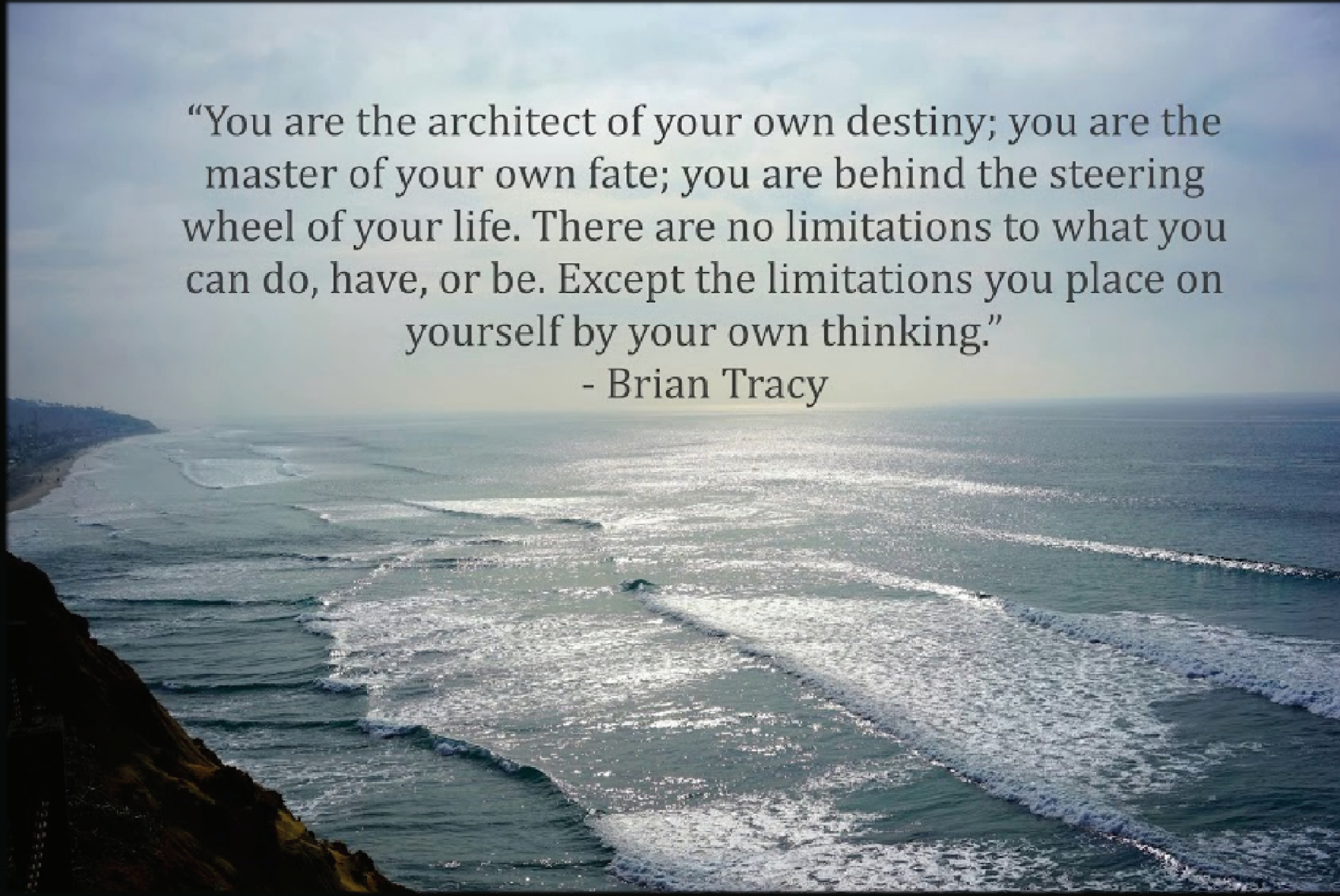
Napoleon Hill



# Oh Humans! Seriously?!?!

“You are the architect of your own destiny; you are the master of your own fate; you are behind the steering wheel of your life. There are no limitations to what you can do, have, or be. Except the limitations you place on yourself by your own thinking.”

- Brian Tracy



# A hive of human industry to control life and master happiness...

- 2 A time to be **born**, and a time to **die**;  
a time to **plant**, and a time to **pluck up** that which is planted;
- 3 A time to **kill**, and a time to **heal**; a time to **break down**, and a time to **build up**;
- 4 A time to **weep**, and a time to **laugh**; a time to **mourn**, and a time to **dance**;
- 5 A time to **cast away** stones, and a time to **gather** stones together;  
a time to **embrace**, and a time to **refrain** from embracing;
- 6 A time to **get**, and a time to **lose**; a time to **keep**, and a time to **cast away**;
- 7 A time to **rend**, and a time to **sew**; a time to **keep silence**, and a time to **speak**;
- 8 A time to **love**, and a time to **hate**; a time of **war**, and a time of **peace**.

- 28 common life events; some good, some bad, some happy, some sad, run their courses according to God's will.
- Extreme opposite events... Why?
- What is the best case for self-serving people?



# The key to understanding Ecc 3:2-8 is in verse 9.



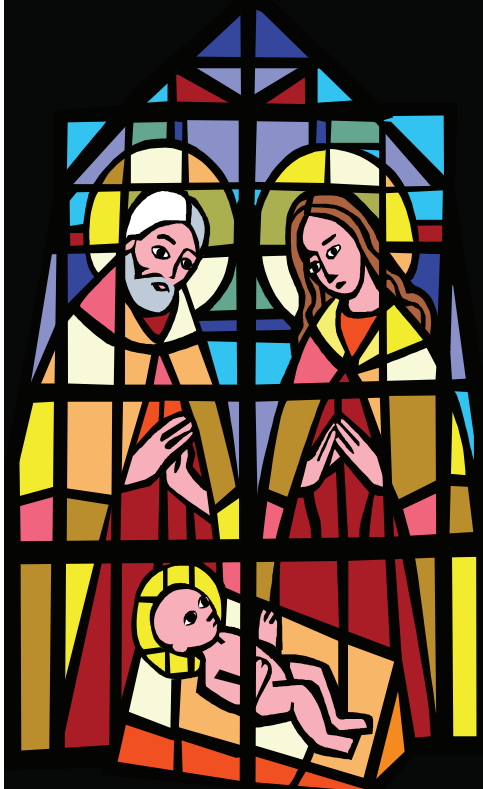
- Ecc 3:9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
- Verses 1-8 set the stage for this question.
- Can self-serving people secure happiness in an environment where they have no ability to control destiny?
- If not, then does it matter what work or activity these people do for happiness, whether they love or hate, build or demolish, and so on?
- TRUE or FALSE: a dog's destiny is with its master and a dog is happiest when it pleases its master.

## Ecc 3:2a A time to be born, and a time to die;

- Humans can make babies, but God determines if and when the babies be born.

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. (2) For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

- God also determines every person's lifespan.
- We don't have a say in when we will show up in this world and how long we get to live.



Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;



- Humans go about their agriculture activities, but God determines individual plant life: when a plant comes into existence, when it will be fruitful, and when it will be useless and uprooted.
- Humans must obey preordained seasons and times in order to properly enjoy God's providence.
  - In regard to happiness, one can only be happy by doing it God's way.
- Both human and plant seasons of life have a beginning and ending, and a short lifespan with a proper growing period.



Ecc 3:3a A time to kill. . .

WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN  
TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

- If God allows death to happen by way of murder or atrocity, what can one do?

Job 9:12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

1Samuel 2:6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

- Interestingly, the text goes from “a time to plant” to “a time to kill.”

Genesis 4:2b Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Ecc 3:3b A time to heal;



- If God in His mercy brings healing as He did to Job, who can stop Him?  
Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
- Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Ecc 3:10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.



- God is a great personal trainer who exercises mankind with travail .
- The events in verses 2-8 are extremes and polar opposites to the intent that they inflict maximum labor and misery to the workers.  
**Ecc 1:8a All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it.**
- PURPOSE: So that humans may be weary of meaningless toil and self-serving and choose to serve God.
- Are you tired yet? Is it time to serve God?



Ecc 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.



- 3 reasons why humans are unable to discern the beauty and harmony of God's works:
  - Stuck on the world – "world in their heart."  
Humans are naturally worldly minded and can only see the present, which is a mess.
  - Stuck on limited knowledge.  
Ecc 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.
  - Stuck on limited time.

Ecc 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.



- Everything that happens to unbelievers is to draw them to God.
  - Beautiful when one who is beaten up (exercised) by the world gets saved.
- Everything that happens to believers is to draw us closer to God.
  - Beautiful promise...

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- Do you see a purpose in life threatening cancer?

John 11:4b This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Ecc 3:12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. (13) And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. (14) I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. (15) That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.



- The labor of self-serving people won't do them any lasting good.
- Their labor will not alter the immutability of God's will concerning them. The same variety of life events will continue to befall every generation.
- The best thing they can hope from their labor is the enjoyment of the present.
- It is futile to rely on human ingenuity to change the things that God has decreed.



Hello self-serving people,  
your world is falling apart.

What are you going to do  
for happiness now?



# You have been illuminated to these truths:

- We exist for a season for God's purposes. To be happy, we must serve Him and submit to His will and plan for our lives, and trust that everything will be beautiful in His time.
- God orders life events on people in order to accomplish His will and to show that humans are not in control of destiny.
- Everything that happens to unbelievers is to draw them to God.
- Everything that happens to believers is to draw us closer to God. This includes life threatening illnesses as cancer and tragedies as losing a loved one prematurely. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- The self-serving life is unprofitable because humans are unable to alter God's decrees.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to [TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com)