

# The Paradox of Now

*“Dear God, Give me patience. And give it to me now.” Delayed gratification is so last century. We have the means to get what we want and to get it now, so why shouldn’t we have it? Even the Bible seems to support living in the now: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” And yet, those who live in the now tend to be the exact ones who end up in the most trouble when they get to the then. Join us this week, as we explore the paradox of Now!*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11

1. Don't just do things \_\_\_\_\_, do the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Do the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Do the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ that make the most  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Things to Do Now***

4. Receive God's \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 6:2)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Hebrews 3:13)
6. Do \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ work (Matthew 6:33)

## **Additional Notes**

## Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Ecclesiastes 3. This passage is a fair representative of the whole book of Ecclesiastes. The author looks at a wide variety of life experiences and tries to make meaning out of them. In the end, the author concludes that there's little to be gained by trying to understand; instead, he suggests that wisdom dictates that we let God be God and that we must be content with being obedient children of God.

1. In Greek, there are two words for time: Kairos and Chronos. Ecclesiastes 3 uses the Greek word Kairos. In Take a few moments to do an online search of Kairos vs Chronos time. How do you understand the difference?

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2. Dr. Bill suggested that Kairos includes a sense of being prepared. What are some of the things Ecclesiastes reminds us to be prepared for?

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3. Choose one or two things from that list ... how are you preparing yourself for their eventuality?

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4. Most of Ecclesiastes 3 reflects a "Hurry up and wait" attitude. But the New Testament implies that disciples should be busy doing things now. What are some things we should be doing today?

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5. How could you encourage someone in the faith today?

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6. What "kingdom work" could you be a part of today?

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7. What will you do today?

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