Munroe, Myles
In Pursuit of Purpose

14. Purpose and Time

This chapter contrasts human time with God's eternity and argues that time only matters when it serves purpose. Drawing on Ecclesiastes, it teaches that God gives every purpose exactly the time needed to reach maturity, and that God measures a life by what it accomplishes, not by how long it lasts.

Key takeaways

- Schedules and clocks are worthless without a purpose driving them; keeping time is pointless if there is no goal you're moving toward.
- There is a right time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Timing is what makes an event good or bad, welcome or tragic.
- Time begins at birth and ends at death; eternity has no beginning or end. Time is a brief 'interruption' in eternity where you fulfill your assignment.
- God exists outside time. When He seems 'late,' it is because He sees the whole picture and is waiting to give what is best, not because He doesn't care.

- God gives each purpose the exact time it needs to reach full maturity and 'beauty' — like a rose or a garden harvest — then its season ends.
- God does not ask how old you are but 'What have you done?' Life is measured by donation, not duration; 'well done' matters more than 'long lived.'
- Jesus modeled living by God's timing, repeatedly saying 'My hour has not yet come' until His purpose was complete.
- Don't waste time. Find your purpose and pursue it; wasted time is lost opportunity to reach what you were made for.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Life is not measured by duration but by donation. From God's perspective, 'well done' is more important than 'long lived.'"*

Sums up how God evaluates a life — by purpose fulfilled, not years lived.

> *"Time is a temporary interruption in eternity."*

The chapter's core image for how to view earthly time.

How it connects

The chapter ties the Ecclesiastes teaching on seasons directly to Jesus' life in John's Gospel, showing that even the Son of God submitted His actions to the Father's timing rather than rushing ahead of purpose.

Scripture referenced

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1** -- A time for every purpose — time is always given for a purpose
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** -- God makes everything beautiful in its time and sets eternity in the heart
- **Isaiah 55:8-9,11** -- God's thoughts and timing are higher than ours; His word accomplishes its purpose
- **John 2:1-4** -- Jesus: 'My hour has not yet come' — awareness of God's timing
- **Ephesians 5:15-16** -- Redeem the time; live wisely, not as fools
- **Psalm 90:12** -- Number our days to gain a heart of wisdom