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## A TIME TO TEAR DOWN AND A TIME TO BUILD UP

### Introduction

Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

There is no question that Ecclesiastes is an amazing book, made all the more amazing when you know something about the background of the author and where his thoughts on life are coming from. The author, Solomon, as an intellectual, he was a brilliant, but in his early life he had no interest at all in God. Solomon was a committed Hedonist, who spent his entire early life seeking pursuits of pleasure, believing this would bring meaning and purpose to his life. For this reason he spent enormous amounts of money and time on his many pleasurable interests. It was not until the near end of his life that he concluded, "Thus I considered all of my activities which my hands have done and the labor which I have exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun." At that point he began to write down his discoveries for his sons. Thankfully we have his amazing insights to help guide and guard us today.

What Solomon is saying here in verse three sounds like a perfect illustration of urban renewal. We see this kind of renewal every day here in Savannah and in cities and towns all over America. Demolition crews are followed by construction crews; first comes the blasting, and then comes the building. We see it in the progress of old, dilapidated broken down housing developments being demolished and replaced by new and impressive spacious homes. We see it also in familiar scenes of life. When a person meets Christ, there is a tearing-down time, followed by a building-up time and the beginning of a new life in Christ alone.

As we consider this, I would like to look at these two aspects of life that we witness daily. Note then:

- I. The demolition of the old man. Vs. 1-3
  - A. The wall of unbrokenness - repentance. Vs. 3b
  - B. The wall of unbelief - faith. Vs. 3b
  - C. The wall of unyieldedness - obedience. Vs. 3b
  - D. The wall of unforgiveness - forgiveness. Vs. 3b
  
- II. The construction of the new man. Vs. 3b
  - A. Spiritually conceived. Luke 14:28
  - B. Sacrificially constructed. Luke 14:28
  - C. Successfully completed. Luke 14:28-29