INTRODUCTION - (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

1. DIFFICULT TO DEFINE, EASY TO EXPERIENCE

"Time" - the point at which something has happened, is happening, or will happen.

Carl Sandburg, poet, "Time is like sand running through our fingers, and when it runs out, it is gone."

We say, "Remember the time ... "

Benjamin Franklin, "Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that is the stuff that life is made of."

2. REDEEMING THE TIME

(Ephesians 5:15-17) "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

"Walk circumspectly" - look around while you walk to find the safe path.

"Understand" - God gets priority in life.

Horace Mann, "Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with 60 diamond minutes.

No reward is offered, for they are gone forever."

Sign by the clock in the classroom: "Time passes, will you?"

3. TIME CANNOT BE STOPPED, BUT WILL BE TERMINATED

We say, "It's later now than it ever has been" and "Time marches on"

Only God can stop time: (Joshua 10:12-13)

Time will be terminated for us when our lives end:

(Ecclesiastes 9:5) "For the living know that they will die ... "
(v10) "... for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

(Psalm 89:48) "What man can live and not see death?"

(Hebrews 9:27; Psalm 90:10; James 4:13-14)

CLOSE: It's time to obey.

(Hebrews 3:13, v15) "exhort one another daily, while it is called Today ..."