

704.750.1589

helperresources@gmail.com

helperresources.com

## *Safe to Hope*

### 1. Circumstances

a. Eccl. 3:1 There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven:

- i. 2 a time to *give birth* and a time to *die*;
- ii. a time to *plant* and a time to *uproot*;
- iii. 3 a time to *kill* and a time to *heal*;
- iv. a time to *tear down* and a time to *build*;
- v. 4 a time to *weep* and a time to *laugh*;
- vi. a time to *mourn* and a time to *dance*;
- vii. 5 a time to *throw stones* and a time to *gather stones*;
- viii. a time to *embrace* and a time to *avoid embracing*;
- ix. 6 a time to *search* and a time to *count as lost*;
- x. a time to *keep* and a time to *throw away*;
- xi. 7 a time to *tear* and a time to *sew*;
- xii. a time to be *silent* and a time to *speak*;
- xiii. 8 a time to *love* and a time to *hate*;
- xiv. a time for *war* and a time for *peace*. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (CSB)

b. Suffering

c. The Rub

- i. Big Bow Theology



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ii. Emotion Motion  
1.

iii. Bounce House Theology  
1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.

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### 2. How does God view our circumstances?

#### *Redemptive Historical Theology*

a. *Him*

- i. Luke 24:25-27

b. *Us*

- i. Acts 17:24-28

- ii. Isa. 49:16

1. Engraved<sup>1</sup>

- a. Your person
- b. Your image
- c. Your “case”
- d. Your circumstances (Eccl. 3:1-8)
- e. Your sins
- f. Your temptations
- g. Your weaknesses
- h. Your wants
- i. Your works
- j. Everything about you
- k. All that concerns you

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<sup>1</sup> This section is based on Charles Spurgeon, *Morning* Nov 7.

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### **3. How to get on the same page**

- a. Revelation 21:5-8
  
- b. Restory
  
- c. What change project is God up to?
  
- d. But, how?
  - i. Posture
  
  - ii. Prayer
  
  - iii. Process
  
  - iv. Identify your losses
  
  - v. Know truth
  
  - vi. Know your typical responses
  
  - vii. Comfort with comfort

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### *Safe to Hope*

When circumstances rock our world and cause significant disappointment, threaten mental or physical health, or produce devastating suffering, our tendency is to respond passively. These situations feel outside of our control, so we simply ride a wave of emotions (emotion motion) until the circumstances dim. It feels a bit like careening around in an inflatable bounce house. We wobble around out of balance, recoil in fear, withdraw from people and/or places (like church), dodge discomfort, or retreat in defeat. Life becomes overwhelming.

But what if we considered these circumstances a *calling* instead?

What if every single circumstance, no matter how sinful, distorted, or ugly, was an invitation from God to overcome fallen-world-evil with good?

What if he is calling you (your position, your giftedness, your experiences) *specifically*?

Paul tells us he knows what it's like to be overwhelmed with life defeating circumstances.  
In 2 Corinthians 1:8 he said it tempted him to desire death!  
Many of us know that feeling.

But God...

Paul reminds us "He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again" (2 Corinthians 1:10).

Paul tells us we are Safe to Hope.