

Notes of a Reading on Ecclesiastes 3

Words by Ian C. McKay, sung to the tune of the second song of the Defendant in Trial by Jury. Full vocal and instrumental score available at <http://www.discourses.org.uk>

Oh, brethren, listen, I pray,
Those faithful here gathered and waiting,
The truth we must always obey
Although it is always mutating;
The moon in her phases is found,
Like time and the wind and the weather,
The months in succession come round,
And you don't find two Mondays together.
Consider the moral, I pray,
And bring not your Leader to sorrow,
Who teaches sound doctrines today
And teaches their converse tomorrow.

Chorus: Consider the moral, we pray, etc.

For everything under the sun,
There's a time and a place and a season;
A time for the evil we've done
And a time to behave within reason;
There was time to cause pain and distress,
A time to take cover and tremble,
A time to admit and confess
And a time to deceive and dissemble.
So my teaching is faithful and true,
Though its basis is cryptic and hidden,
When there's something I say you must do
And when later I say it's forbidden.

Chorus: His teaching, etc.

My spiritual grasp of the truth
Is wondrously deep and wide-ranging;
It's full of the vigour of youth,
And constantly growing and changing.
You cannot drink claret all day,
Nor is it unseemly or risky
When claret is taken away
To turn one's attention to whisky.
It's the same with your spiritual thirst,
So I, as your spiritual waiter,
Will serve up one ministry first
And serve up the opposite later.

Chorus: It's the same with our spiritual thirst, etc.