



SEASONS

Seasons Series

Part 2

October 9, 2022

2 Timothy 4:1-8, “1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and

wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” May the Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Today we will be continuing our series for the Month of October entitled “Seasons”. Last Sunday, we discussed the necessity of seasons and how the progressive building of each season prepares us for our future. Today I will be discussing the Blessing of Seasons and how the changing of Seasons is meant to be a blessing and a gift from the Lord. Thus, Point #1...

1) Seasons of Change are Gifts from God

a) James 1:16-18, “¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

- b) Far too often, as we discussed last Sunday, we view seasons as life sentences and live in bondage to our past. But when seasons of change come, it should be viewed as a gift; a good and perfect gift from the Lord! God is with us in every season of our life and in every change of life; His word is clear that He will never leave us nor forsake us! And even when we face the unknown, we can trust that He is in control and working out every situation for our good; that doesn't mean, however, that we lean on a shovel and pray for a hole!
- c) The Gospel of Saint John 16:29-33, ²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- d) Note how Christ forewarns them of a coming change of season in verse 31 but then in verse 33, He declares, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace."

e) Church, there is a peace in Christ for every season; no matter the situation or the circumstance! And just as Christ stated, let us all embrace this truth today! In this world we will have tribulation but we can take heart in Christ because He overcame the world and as He did so shall we!

f) May we all remember the Words of Solomon today recorded in the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:11, “He has made everything beautiful in its time.” And brothers and sisters, we can rest in this truth today! No matter what you are navigating today, Christ makes everything beautiful in its time! Trust His timing and keep pushing forward!

g) Remember, Seasons of Change are Gifts from God!

h) Point #2...

2) Seasons of Change are a part of God’s Divine Order

a) Ecclesiastes 3:1, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”

b) The Book of Ecclesiastes gives us many examples of the seasons that we will all face in this life together! Whether it be the birthing of a new life into this world, or the loss of life; both bitter weeping and great joy will be experienced in this life and all of which are a part of God’s Divine Order for all of humanity.

- c) Take John the Baptists rise to power and influence for example leading up to Christ's arrival onto the scene in the Biblical Narrative. But when it was time for John's season to shift to make way for the Messiah, he valued the changing of season because it was God's divine order.
- d) The Gospel of Saint John 3:27-30, ²⁷ "John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."
- e) We all are enabled to see John's position regarding Christ in his closing remark found in Verse 30, ³⁰ "He must increase, but I must decrease." And when seasons change, we must embrace those changes because it is ultimately a question if we are willing to decrease in our preferences in so that He may increase His will in our lives!
- f) Remember, Seasons of Change are a part of God's Divine Order
- g) In closing, Point #3

3) Seasons of Change are Seasons of Refreshing

a) Psalm 1:1-3, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

b) Church, when we are planted in the will of God, seasons of refreshing and fruitfulness always come in due season. God is faithful in every season! Granted, it is much easier to cleave to the joy that comes in joyful seasons, but we must not fall into the trap of allowing our seasons to determine our joy! We choose Joy and Peace! Today let us choose to not allow changing circumstances to cause our faith to falter.

c) I want to call to your remembrance the Words of Isaiah found in Isaiah 54:10, “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,’ says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

d) Church family, Seasons of Change are Seasons of Refreshing because we serve a God who has compassion upon us!