

The SEASONS of Life

February 27, 2022

A Season for us ALL

On Super Bowl Sunday we launched our latest series entitled, “**The SEASONS of Life.**”

We mentioned Football has 3 seasons...

Pre-Season-
Regular Season-
Post-Season.

This analogy entails our Spiritual Life as well!

- When we first come to Christ...everything is so new! There seems to be a lot to learn, and getting into a new relationship with Jesus.
- Then we enter the GAME. We begin to understand what our Spiritual Life is all about.
 - We get connected to the church
 - Attend Life Groups
 - Start to Serve, build relationships...
 - *And yet along the way, we experience some pretty incredible HIGHS, but we can also experience some difficult LOWS!*

But all of that is the push to get us ready to enter the **POST SEASON...living eternally with Jesus in heaven!**

But the real challenge is... each of us LIVING OUT OUR FAITH in the HERE & NOW DURING THIS REGULAR SEASON!

The great Wisdom Writer of the Old Testament, or as He describes himself, the **PREACHER**, says it this way: **To every thing *in life*, there is a SEASON... Ecc. 3**

He goes on by pairing 14 seemingly opposites—

- A time to *tear down* and a time to *build up*
- A time to *mourn* and *dance*
- A time *keep* and *throw away...*

But what the writer is trying to help us understand is that they are all *appointed* parts of God's order. **The cycles of time are *APPOINTED*.**

Solomon finally realized the *futility* of discovering purpose in life through reason, experience, accomplishment, and pleasure-seeking, which just leads to more futility. **So he shifts to observing the cycles of life through FAITH.**

God set it up this way so **we realize OUR purpose... is embedded within HIS purpose.**

I. God's appointment is Exhaustive.

It applies to ***EVERYTHING!*** There is not a single **PURPOSEFUL** thing in the season of your life that is random. ***Ps. 121-*** the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Not only are all things *Appointed*, the *TIME* of all things is *Appointed*.

Romans 5:6- You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Trying to explain all the cycles of life and nature in Chapters 1-2 through reason and experience led to a conclusion that life is just on random repeat, for no apparent reason. [Free Guy]

But with faith in God as the foundation for understanding, now all the cycles are part of an intricate and specific plan...*for every event under heaven!!*

First, The TIMING of our activities is important.

Killing is generally considered evil and a crime, but that may change during a time of war, when defending one's country can be considered a noble act.

Dancing may be appropriate during a time of celebration, but it would not be appropriate for a funeral.

Both our Actions and the *Timing* of our actions are important to God.

A key in this passage is found **HERE**:

He has made everything beautiful in its TIME. v.11

The word translated as *beautiful* is also translated as appropriate.

God created these cycles(seasons) with beauty and completeness.

Presumably this means that even the intrusion of death will not thwart God's ultimate purpose. In fact, death is the last foe to be vanquished (1 Cor 15:55; Rev 20:14). Perhaps the death of death will be one of the most beautiful and fitting completions of the cycle of life.

Ps. 116- Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

In regard to Purpose and using your **TIME** appropriately!!

The *proper activity, at the right time*, bringing about God's purposes, is a beautiful part of God's overall plan.

Second: Perspective- As we contemplate God's sovereignty over the cycles of life, **we are choosing whether to look at these things from a self-centric perspective or a faith-based perspective.**

[iLL] A beautiful, oriental rug viewed from the back, seems a chaotic and unlovely work; but the maker of the tapestry has a wise purpose for the placement of each thread.

Things may appear vaporous to our limited perspective, but they are in perfect order from His.

A major takeaway from Ecclesiastes is that we can't really control much of life, **but the difference between enjoying and hating life stems directly from how we choose to see it. The perspective we choose on how to look at life determines whether we are Fulfilled or Frustrated.**

Third: We are called to accept each day as a GIFT from the hand of God. (2:24–26).

Why...because God has a reason and a time for all things. People may be ignorant of God's timing, but we are called to **embrace life in the present AND trust in God's sovereignty (3:14–15).**

Our activity in this world is meaningful... as we rely on His wisdom, His timing, and His goodness...Whatever season you are in!!

Closing Truths

1. Seasons bring Wisdom-

Darryl Keen

Wisdom- My grandfather, whose experience with the Great Depression made a huge impression on him, saved old nails and screws in an old tin can. He built a rack above his car in the garage to hold pieces of lumber left over from various projects. He was careful to clean his tools so they wouldn't rust—and to store them in their proper place when they weren't in use. He never made a lot of money, but he always made enough to add something to his savings every month. **In other words, he was careful “to seek” and “to keep.”**

But Grandad wasn't a miser. He bought new cars instead of used. He could always find money to buy his grandchildren an ice cream cone or a candy bar. He was a wise man who knew when to save and when to spend—when to hunker down and when to enjoy—when “to seek” and when “to lose”—when “to keep” and when “to cast away.” His wisdom in this respect enriched our lives.

2. Seasons secure for us a Steadfast Spirit- Ps. 51:10
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me.

Are there things that you have lost throughout the
years? The Power of Repentance!!

3. Purposeful Seasons NEVER fade!

Joshua & Caleb- Good Report

Numbers 14:24-But my servant Caleb, because he
had another spirit with him, and hath followed me
fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went;
and his seed shall possess it.

BAND

Joshua 14- Give me the mountain Age 85

And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he
said, these forty and five years, even since
the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the
children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and
now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day
that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so
is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to
come in.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb **the city and mountain of Hebron for an inheritance.**

3,000 ft of elevation!!