

The Changing Seasons



The Changing Seasons

- Lesson One: “Solomon’s Seasons” in which we considered:
 - The constantly changing conditions of life under the sun
 - The difficulties presented by living in a constantly changing world
 - How to live spiritually and bear up faithfully with those changes

The Changing Seasons

- By examining these changing seasons, we will learn:
 - That we have a role in adapting to the changes
 - That we must cooperate with God in effecting these changes
 - Because God has put beauty in all of these times, we should do more than just endure the seasons of unpleasantness; we should find a reason to rejoice in them

The Changing Seasons

- Ecc. 3:9-11 - “What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? 10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”

Born... Die; Plant... Pluck Up

- We have no control of the day we are born.
- We only have limited control over length of our lives
 - Job 7:1 - “Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man?”
- We do control our choice of eternal destination when Judgment inevitably comes
 - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”

Born... Die; Plant... Pluck Up

- What is true in agriculture is also true in human life
 - Hosea 10:12 - “Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.”
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Kill... Heal; Break Down... Build Up

- God sends judgments, and multitudes fall; if they repent, He heals them
 - Hosea 6:1 - “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.”

Kill... Heal; Break Down... Build Up

- God determines the time of building
 - 1Kings 5:3-5 - “You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence. 5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name.’”

Kill... Heal; Break Down... Build Up

- And the time for breaking down
 - 2Peter 3:3-7, 10-11 - “Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

Weep... Laugh; Mourn... Dance

- “A time to weep (libkot), and a time to laugh (lishoq); a time to mourn (sapod), and a time to dance (raqod)”
- Matt. 5:4 - “Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Weep... Laugh; Mourn... Dance

- The Pharisees erred when they required solemnness out of season
 - Matt. 9:14-15 - “Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?’ 15 And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.’”
 - Psalms 126:1-2 - “When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’”

Weep... Laugh; Mourn... Dance

- All have known or will know times of sorrow.
Much can be gained from sorrow
 - Ecc. 7:2-4 - “Better to go to the house of mourning
Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the
end of all men; And the living will take it to heart.
3 Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad
countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart
of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the
heart of fools is in the house of mirth.”

Weep... Laugh; Mourn... Dance

- Sorrow increases our appreciation and gratitude for times of joy
 - 2Sam. 6:12-15 - “14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod”
 - Prov. 17:22 - “A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones”

Cast Away Stones... Gather Stones Together; Embrace... Refrain From Embracing

- Cast away stones out of a garden or vineyard where they are a hindrance; gather stones for building a wall around the garden or vineyard where they are protective
- Now is not the time to rest
 - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”
 - Eph. 6:10-18
- Heaven is our place of rest

Cast Away Stones... Gather Stones Together; Embrace... Refrain From Embracing

- Embrace... Refrain from embracing
- There are times when a choice must be made between the faithful and heretical.
 - Matt. 10:37 - “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me”
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’”
 - 2John 1:10 - “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him”

Seek... Lose; Keep... Cast Away

- A Christian should make the most of his opportunities in life
 - Col. 3:22-23 - “Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men”

Seek... Lose; Keep... Cast Away

- But, there comes a time when pursuit of these matters must be set aside as they interfere with our goal of going to heaven
 - Matt. 10:39 - “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it”
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”
 - Matt. 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Seek... Lose; Keep... Cast Away

- Keep - not to give to the idle
 - 2Thes. 3:10 - “...We commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”
- Cast away - in charity
 - Prov. 11:24-25 - “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”
- Be willing to part with a dear or precious object, rather than the priceless soul
 - Mark 9:43 - “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched”

Rend... Sew; Silence... Speak

- In Biblical times, mourners would tear their garments as a sign of grief.
- Sewing implies there will come a time when grief and its symbols and behaviors must be put away
- Rending must happen in the church if the erring will not repent.
- The parting can be re-knit if repentance occurs.
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

Rend... Sew; Silence... Speak

- Hab. 2:20 - “The LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him”
- Lev. 10:3 - “And Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the LORD spoke, saying: By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ So Aaron held his peace.”
- Amos 5:13 - “Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, For it is an evil time”
- Job 2:13 - “So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great”

Rend... Sew; Silence... Speak

- Prov. 13:3 - “He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction”
- Prov. 10:19 - “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise”
- Prov. 17:28 - “Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive”
- James 3:2-12

Rend... Sew; Silence... Speak

- There are times to speak out, where silence would be sin.
 - Luke 19:37, 40 - “Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen ... 40 But He answered and said to them, ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’”
 - Rom. 10:9-10 - “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”

Love... Hate; War... Peace

- Love is the greatest positive emotion we can have - 1Cor. 13:13
- God is Love - 1John 4:8; Matt. 5:43-44

Love... Hate; War... Peace

- However, there is a time for those who love to experience hate.
 - Rev. 2:6 - “...You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate”
 - Psalm 119:104 - “Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way”
- If we hated sin as much as God hates it, sin would no longer be a problem in our lives

Love... Hate; War... Peace

- A time of war - Ex. 17:12-13
- And a time of peace
 - Micah 4:3 - “He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war any more”

Love... Hate; War... Peace

- We must love truth and hate sin; be at war with error and at peace with God and man
 - Rom. 12:16-21 - “Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. 20 Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

The Changing Seasons

“What if you could pick one day of your life, and everything would stop changing, every day would be similar and comparable to that one day, and you’d always have the same people with you? ... We crave for things to stop changing, we wish that things would never change. But if we got what we wanted, there are so many things that are better that we would never know about. Sure, things would stay the same as that one wonderful day, but then there would be nothing else out there, ever. ... Maybe we all carry around inside us that one day we wish we could keep forever, something we wished never did change. It's time to let go of that day, and soar. When a caterpillar bursts from its cocoon and discovers it has wings, it does not sit idly, hoping to one day turn back into a caterpillar. It flies.” (C. JoyBell C. & Kelseyleigh Reber)