

Solomon's Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Solomon's Seasons

- We live in a world where change is inevitable.
 - Changes will occur, often in spite of us instead of because of us.
- The more things change, the more they remain the same.
 - Ecc. 1:9-11 - “That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, See, this is new? It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.”

Solomon's Seasons

- How do we face these changing seasons?
 - Ecc. 2:24 - “Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.”
 - Phil. 4:11-12 - “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

Solomon's Seasons

- When in adversity, be patient; everything changes.
- In all things live in trust and reverence for God; neither lifted too high with hope or joy, nor cast down too low with fear or sorrow.

To Everything There Is A Season

- The events, actions, and emotions that are common to the human experience are so certain to come to all of us; God has given them time, place and purpose
 - God knows what is best for humankind to grow and excel.
 - The test of our faith is do we trust Him?

To Everything There Is A Season

- Matt. 6:25-33
- Rom. 8:28-31 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

To Everything There Is A Season

- The inevitability of the changing of seasons is sure.
- In the list of opposites, though some seem evil, in their proper place both are needful and good; they bring growth and complement each other.
- The point is not which one is evil or good, but that they will all come about and bring good.

To Everything There Is A Season

- Earthly pursuits are lawful in their proper time and order, but harmful when out of time and place, or when pursued, as the only chief good.
- God makes everything beautiful in its season, which man only dimly comprehends.
- God allows us to enjoy His earthly blessings beneficially in moderation.

To Everything There Is A Season

- We have appointed cycles of seasons and limits.
- As God has fixed a time, place and purpose for everything, so there is a lawful time, place, purpose for man to carry out his desires, will, and plans.
- God does not condemn but approves of the use of earthly blessings; it is the abuse He condemns, the making them the chief end of our life under the sun.

To Everything There Is A Season

- The earth, without human desires, love, tastes, joy, sorrow, would be a dreary place, like a land without water; but, on the other hand, the misplacing and excess of these things, like a flood of water, needs control.
- Reason and revelation are given to us to control them.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.”

The Problem, Purpose, and Plan

- If all of these things are so certain to come to pass, then what is the use in working for the best seasons?
 - Ecc. 3:9 - “What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?”

The Problem, Purpose, and Plan

- God allows the good and bad to come that man might be exercised, tested, and grow to his full potential. It is through hardship that our strength is developed.
 - Ecc. 3:10 - “I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.”

The Problem, Purpose, and Plan

- The spiritual facts we must accept and trust is that everything is beautiful in its place, and that only God is wise enough to judge its best place.
 - Ecc. 3:11 - “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.”

Help In Handling The Changing Seasons

- Know with conviction that God is in control and is completely aware of what is going on in this world.
 - Understand fully that sin is the great source of suffering in this world, and man chooses whether to sin or forbear.

Help In Handling The Changing Seasons

- Find Christian joy and contentment in whatever season we find ourselves in.
 - Phil. 4:11-13 - “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Luke 21:12-19 - "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. 13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 By your patience possess your souls."

Help In Handling The Changing Seasons

- Look for the good in every situation.
 - What can we learn from this?
 - How can we do better in the future?
 - How can we help others with our experiences?
 - How has this experience made us stronger?

Help In Handling The Changing Seasons

- Know that God allows good and evil to fall on the good and evil alike.
 - Matt. 5:45 - “That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”
 - Rom. 8:38-39 - “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Help In Handling The Changing Seasons

- Know that though this life changes, God and His promises do not.
 - Mal. 3:6 - “For I Jehovah, change not.”
 - Heb. 6:17-19 - “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil”
 - Heb. 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Lessons

- What happens to us when the seasons of life come and go?
 - Do we drift aimlessly, ecstatic in good times, despairing in hard times?
 - Or, are we fastened to the foundation rock of God, facing both good times and bad with determination to remain faithful?
 - We cannot control all of the events in our lives, but we can control the impact those events have upon us, if we trust in God's help and follow His word.