

"Times and Seasons" (Part 1)
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (3:1-2,4,11)

*"(Jesus) said to them, 'It is **not for you to know** times or seasons that **the Father has fixed** by His own authority.'" (Acts 1:7); "But when **the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law." (Galatians 4:4); "**(God) changes times and seasons**; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." (Daniel 2:21)*

"We are confident that we will die, and we are confident that life will be mingled with joy and sorrow, duties and delights. But at large, our view of tomorrow is largely uncertain."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"For everything..."*
 - The word **season** has to do with the *duration of something*, and the word for **time** has to do with the *beginning of something*.
 - The word **season** lets us know that there is a time *that is fixed or appropriate or according to God's good and wise plan for all things*. The word **time** lets us know that *the timing of these things are uncertain or indefinite from our perspective*.
 - *"Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring...instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:14-15; cf. Matthew 6:33-34)*
 - God has designed us to flourish and to stay humble in trusting Him in and submitting to how He has ordered things to operate.
 - *"**While the earth remains**, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22)*
 - *"**Six days** you shall labor, and do all your work, but **the seventh day** is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:9-10)*
 - *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates **day and night**." (Psalm 1:2)*
 - Why has God designed life this way?
 - **Anticipation:** There is great joy in looking forward to things. From the weekly gathering of the saints to the joys of heaven.
 - **Participation:** There is a great joy in preparation and stewardship for difficult challenges and for delightful experiences.
 - **Protection:** We lose the joy of life in idleness, in being cynical, in assuming the worst and having a "why even try attitude."
 - **Adoration:** When we are in awe of God and how He is orchestrating the whole of life to accomplish His good purposes, it fills us with joy.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11: *"He has made everything beautiful..."*
 - *"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, **it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31; cf. Revelation 21:1-4)*
 - *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but **God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, **as they are today**." (Genesis 50:20)*
 - *"And we know that for those who love God all things (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** *Monetary Donations for Angel Tree:* Please see the October Newsletter for more information about our monthly donation collection!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, October 4th.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, October 4th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for the meal. We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Children's Ministry **AND** the Cleaning Ministry are looking for volunteers to join their ministries. If you are a Church Member and you would like to join the Children's Ministry, or have questions about volunteering in this ministry, please see Katie Sapp! If you are interested in joining the Cleaning Ministry, or have questions about volunteering for this ministry, please see Krystal.

★*For all other announcements, please see the October Newsletter!*