

## Life Has its Seasons

The sports world gives us great examples about the seasons of life. I remember that during my teen years the New England Patriots football team was totally inept. Today they are perennial Super Bowl contenders. The New York Yankees baseball team has had its ups and downs over the years, winning 27 World Series titles, but none in the past 10 years. The Golden State Warriors had a recent run of being in the NBA finals. Injuries, age of players and other factors changed the results of all these sports teams.

If you own stock you realize there are ups and downs, bull and bear markets and recessions. The stock market crash of 1929 devastated the economy at the time, and the market took another major hit during the recession of just a decade ago. But look at it now.



Around New Year's we hear the familiar passages of Ecclesiastes, which tells us "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." We hear passages from Ecclesiastes as the beginning of another season in the calendar. Perhaps we miss the message. The seasons change but God does not. Life, with its ups and downs, is meaningless with a relationship to God.

Ecclesiastes is considered a book of wisdom, written by Solomon. Solomon was looking for the meaning of life. He recognized that life is a journey from one point to another. The human side of life has its ups and downs, triumphs and failures. There are times of mourning and grief, but also of laughter and celebration. There are seasons of blessings and famine, obstacles and opportunities. Life seems to be ever-changing. Yet Solomon learned that God is a constant presence for those of faith. God's promises are eternal. During times of uncertainty and injustice we can trust Him and follow Him. *I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him (Ecclesiastes 3:14).*

Solomon's vision of life was through human eyes but he ultimately recognized the rule and reign of God in the world. Solomon's progression from a merely human vision to acknowledging God's eternal presence is indicative of the wisdom for which he was known. Solomon came to realize that God is the only source of wisdom.

The book of Ecclesiastes refers to our pursuit of pleasure or commitment to a job as a dead end. That is the human perspective. We think of our pursuit of pleasure and commitment to our work at year end, and we often set goals for the following year. Solomon learned that whatever distracts us from trusting God with our life is a dead end. His conclusion was to trust solely in the Lord and life would become satisfying in a lasting and productive way. *Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God (Ecclesiastes 5:19).* Acknowledge God's hand in what you enjoy, as it is a gift from God. As you transition from 2019 to 2020 let God be the constant in your life. God is with you through all the seasons of your life. The human seasons of life change but God never changes.

**Question:** Have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life? Does your life lack the meaning and purpose you desire?

**The Bible Says:** *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).*

**Prayer:** Most generous and gracious Heavenly Father. In our minds we know that all that we have and enjoy comes from you. Instead of focusing on what we have done we wish to focus on You as the constant in our lives, and the source of wisdom. In our pursuit for happiness let us find it in You. Amen.