

## Seasons of Life

As strange as it seems, I was caught off guard many years ago when I was working on genealogy. There, before my eyes, was a listing of my ancestors. Each was shown with a birth date and a death date. Birth, death, birth, death, birth death... and then at the end of the list was my name, with my birth date. What? I am going to die? How can that be? I was a young father in the prime of my life! How sobering to realize that I was just a speck in God's big picture of life.

The wisdom that Solomon shares is that there are many seasons in life. The variety of seasons can enrich one's appreciation for the fullness of life. Or at least the variety of seasons can teach us to find joy in the ordinary moments. The creation that God has fashioned includes ups and down, sunrises and sunsets, winters and springs, joys and sorrows, life and death:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

*A time to be born, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and at time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal  
.....  
A time for love, and a time to hate;  
A time for war, and a time for peace.*

Solomon's wisdom invites us to live life from the perspective of eternity. Recognizing that neither highs nor lows last, that harvest requires sowing, laughter can follow weeping, silence can lead to speech, and new life follows death. What we see now will disappear. Eternity is around the corner.

Winter's *time* is now upon us. My elderly neighbor recently wrote to me,

*"Winter has a beauty of its own. My favorite winter morning activity is to feed the birds, drag a lawn chair out of the garage and set in it while I drink my morning hot coffee while watching the birds. If the sun is shining & there is slight moisture in the air then I get millions of minuscule diamonds floating down around me. That is about as rich as anyone can get. Such beauty. Then there is the silence snow brings...a worldly peace. So, by now coffee is gone, & I am really cold. So, I drag my lawn chair back into the garage & now ready to love the warm confined space of my home for another day for I just visited God's winter wonder land!"*

Spring's *time* (Eternity) is just around the corner.

God is our Creator. All of existence is "under heaven", now and forever. Amen.

Brick Bradford, a friend who passed away in 2006