

19 April 2020

A Time to Love, and A Time to Hate

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**Ecclesiastes (3:1): “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: (3:8): A time to love, and a time to hate”**

Times and seasons in our lives are constantly changing! We awake to April 19, 2020 and the Lord’s Day; we do not know what this day will bring, but what we do know is; whatever does happen in this day was appointed for us by our Heavenly Father, and we know that our Father has called each of us as children of God to walk by faith in Him into this day.

Christian, God will try and test your faith in Him in every time and season of your life; in the good and prosperous times, and in the distressing and difficult times. I would say: ESPECIALLY in the good and prosperous times, because that is when we are so prone to cast our faith aside! And WHY? Why must my faith be tested and tried? Why can’t I just “believe in Christ” and live a normal life in the world like everyone else? Because, Christian, YOU are not “OF THIS WORLD”; you are NOT to live a “normal” life in this world, and as one who is of the world! Christian, consider the biblical benchmark (or standard) for how you are to live in this world: Hebrews 11:13-16, 13:14

Christian, you are to be a stranger and pilgrim in this world, and one who constantly looking to heaven while you are passing through it; 2 Peter 3:13: “Nevertheless, we (believers) according to His promise, looking for a new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness”

Christian, God designed every time and season of your life to conform you to the image of Christ and to prepare you for heaven.

This morning: “A time to love, and a time to hate”

**Sadly, what we see (OFTEN) in close personal relationships between two persons (perhaps a husband & wife); they begin by loving one another: but then some sin, some strife, or some contention comes between them, and that love that was there diminishes and disappears, and hatred ensues.**

A time to love has become a time to hate. This is the nature & characteristic of the world’s “love”; or love in a fallen world; it is not longsuffering and selfless, but it is impatient and self-willed. Christian, you are not to love like the world, and you are not to hate like the world.

BUT, YOU ARE called to love and to hate.

When I was not a Christian, lost and dead in my trespasses and sins, it was a time in my life when I loved what I now hate, and I hated what I now love.

When I loved the world and my sins, I hated Christ; now, I love Christ, and I hate the world, and I hate my sins. I'm so glad that, THAT time and season of my life has passed! The Psalmist says of Christ: Psalm 45:7: "Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness"; If the Kingdom of Christ is within you, you should love what Christ loves, and hate what He hates!

If you're in Christ this morning, and the Spirit of God is in you; you should not love like the world, and you are not to hate like the world. But, FOR YOU, IT IS a time to love and to hate.

### **FIRST: A time to love:**

Christian, before we go any further in "times and seasons to love", let us consider how we are to love, and the description of the love that we should possess.

Consider that "earthly loves" change; they appear and vanish as quickly as a cold front in south Louisiana. But you Christian are to possess a different love, a foreign love, and a love that comes from a different place!

1 John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not"

**"WHAT MANNER OF LOVE" is this?** Meaning, where is it from? There is no love in the world like this love! It's foreign to the world, and though it exists in the world, it did not originate in the world, but in heaven and from God!

"What manner of man is this? For He commands the winds and the water, and they obey Him!"

Aren't you so glad child of God, that when man fell into sin in the Garden of Eden that it was A TIME TO LOVE! God could have wiped man off the face of the earth for his sin and rebellion, but He didn't.

After Adam sinned, God shed the innocent blood of (2) animals to cloth and cover them in their shame and nakedness. In this act of God, He communicated His love to fallen man. It was the first sign of God's love to fallen man, (in time) and the promise of the Lamb of God who would come and take away the sins of the world!

But the scriptures also teach us that God's love for sinful man did not originate in time: God didn't just decide to love sinful man after the fall:

"Jeremiah 31:3: "Yea, I have loved the with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee"

THIS is "THE LOVE" that the Father has bestowed upon you child of God, in God sending His Son into the world (in the likeness of sinful flesh) to

suffer and die for your sins. The world does not know this love, and they do not they have it. But it is in you Christian; and NOW, it is how you are to love! 1 John 4:7-21

### **Christian, in every season of your life, it is a time to love:**

First: You are to love the Lord your God with all our heart, with all your soul, with all of your mind, and with all of your strength! If you're in Christ, the love of God is in you, and YOU CANNOT BUT love God! For it is God who gives you the ability to love Him. Romans 5:5 teaches us this:

“The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”; and so how can we NOT love God!

And then: If you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, you will love God's Word and every grace and spiritual virtue that it brings forth in your life! Psalms 119:9-16, 97-104, 127

John 14:15, 21-24

### **It a “time to love” in our earthly relationships:**

Husbands, it is always time to love your wife; wives, it is always time to love your husband. Ephesians 5! Parents, as long as you're in this life, it is a time to love your children. It is time for you to love your brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is time for you to love your neighbor as yourself.

And who is your neighbor? The person next to you in line at the store, the driver in the next lane of traffic trying to merge in front of you, or the stranger whom you just met and who has a need, or that person who asks you to pray for them. 1 John 3:16-19

Christian: It is a time for you to love your enemies: Matthew 5:44-48

### **And then: it is “a time to hate”**

Christian, you are not to hate like the world hates. The world's hatred is a sinful hatred. We just read Matthew 5:43

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you.....”

The world is full of failed relationships in which two persons, who once loved each other now hate one another; whether it be a husband and wife, brother and sister, brother and brother, sister and sister, a child a parent, friend, or neighbor. The root cause of every form of sinful hatred in the world is sin.

We see it in the first two brothers, when Cain hated Abel because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected his sacrifice.

1 John 3:11-15, 2:9-11, 4:20-21

Understand, therefore, for you to hate your brother or your sister or your neighbor, and to carry that hatred around in your heart is a sinful hatred.

Romans 13:10 “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law”

**Christian, you are to possess a GOOD and HEALTHY HATRED that BEGETS in you MORE LOVE to Christ. “Jesus loves righteousness and hates wickedness” and that is exactly HOW you OUGHT to LOVE and HATE!**

If you would have this good hatred in you, then you must hate the things that God hates and love the things that God loves! This includes hating even the thoughts of sin and pride and rebellion against God!

After God spoke to Job, and after all of his sufferings, Job confessed his own sin before God in a statement of personal abhorrence of himself:

Job 42:5-6

Psalm 97:10: “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil”

Psalm 101:3-4, 119:104, 113, 128, 163, Proverbs 8:13, 6:16-19, Romans 12:9

In the Psalms, David wrote of a hatred for the enemies of God; those that hated God: Psalm 139:19-24

I’m just going to leave this passage with you, and I would admonish you to be VERY careful in expressing hatred toward another person; but understand that David’s hatred for God’s enemies was firmly rooted in David’s great love to God. This wasn’t a malicious sinful hatred, but a holy hatred and righteous indignation for those that hated the God that he loved!

**In Closing: Christian, every single day of your life is a time to love, and time to hate:**

Now is the time to ask yourself questions, such as, what do I love and what do I hate? If I love my sins, I cannot think to love Christ! If I love the world, the love of the Father IS NOT IN ME!

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”

Do you love God? Then YOU MUST love the Word of God and the people of God; and therefore, it is TIME to love righteousness and hate wickedness and our own sin! It is TIME to Love truth and hate every false way!

**If you're listening this morning and you're lost; it's A TIME for you TO HATE your sins and it's A TIME for you to LOVE CHRIST!**

Your sins have separated you from God and estranged you from Him! If you're lost, you're an enemy of God!

*John 3:36 The wrath of God abideth on you!*

The longer you go on in your sins in this life, the more your life will be ruined; how is it that you love what you should hate, and hate what you should love?

And it will only get worse for you sinner, at the time of your death: Don't forget that time and season that comes to us all; "there is a time to die":

"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, the judgment"

Romans 5:8-11