

29 March 2020

A time to get, and a time to lose

---

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-6: "A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away"**

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"

Everything that happens in this "ever changing" world; every season, every time, and every event has been determined by God. **Isaiah 46:9-11**

**Acts 17:26: "God has made of one blood all nations of people to dwell on the face of the earth, (God created every single one of us) and He has also determined our TIMES; before appointed, and the bounds (or boundaries) of our habitation"**

**Psalms 31:15: "My times are in thy hand"**

We just read in our text, there is a time to be born, and a time to die; understand that everything IN BETWEEN your birth and your death, and every season of your life is determined by God.

Christian, these truths should be comforting to you! If you're lost and not a Christian; if you've not turned away from your sins to Christ in repentance and faith, this should "unsettle you", and that is because your life is NOT your own; and the day is coming when God will require your soul and take back the life that was given to you.

Understand therefore, if you're not a Christian, you are in danger of losing your soul; that's an eternal loss from which there is no recovery!

Let us from this learn that it is through the clear "lens of God's Word" that we are able to rightly discern everything that happens in our lives, in every time & season of life; from birth to death, trials, afflictions & sicknesses, to the state of things in the world, (to wars, famines, disasters); distress of nations, this COVID-19 pandemic; to times of peace, prosperity, and plenty, and times of laughing, rejoicing, and dancing.

Beloved of God, NOTHING in our lives comes to pass fortuitously, or by chance or happenstance, but "TO everything, and for everyone, there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"

**This present world is changing by the hour; that has perhaps never been so obvious as in recent days and in light of the current world situation.**

Just a few months ago all of the news about our economy, the stock market, and businesses in America was all positive; unemployment was the lowest it had been in years.

I heard a news report back in January, in which, it was reported that many businesses and companies were expanding,

and that there were good paying jobs to be had, and that many in the workforce were changing jobs because they saw opportunities to make more money.

Just a few months ago, all across the country it was a time to get or to gain, or as it also means, a time to seek after and acquire!

The money was flowing, people were getting raises and bonuses at their jobs; so, they were BUYING & GETTING houses, cars and boats, new furniture, new gadgets! NOW: All of that has come to a screeching halt!

No one saw this coming;

How very TRUE is Proverbs 27:1: "Do not boast about tomorrow. For you do not know what a day may bring forth" Here we are, March 29, 2020, an invisible virus has changed the entire world; our way of life has been completely changed; to include, how we live, how we interact with one another, even our church gatherings have temporarily ceased to stop the spread of COVID-19.

If before this time you took the church gathering for granted, what a wakeup call this ought to be to you and for all of us!

Times of getting and gaining and prosperity have providentially become a time of loss, and a time to lose that which was gotten or gained. We have not yet experienced the effects of what is happening today!

Thousands of people have already been furloughed or laid off from their jobs. Businesses have been forced to close; the stock market has descended to historic lows. There has never been a time like this in my lifetime!

Time to get & gain (in the world) has for now ceased, and we have entered into times of loss, or a time to lose.

**This is why it is so important for us as Christians to "set our affection on things above and not on things on the earth"**

Oh that this time of earthly losses might become a time of spiritual gains in the Kingdom of Christ!

THIS should be a solemn wake up call to all of us as Christians to NEVER attach ourselves and our affections to this fallen and ever-changing world; but we must embrace and attach ourselves (by faith) to the only thing (or Person) WHO is CONSTANT and STABLE, and NOT subject to change; and that is Christ!

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever".

Psalms 102:27: "But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end"

James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"

Christian, what you GET or GAIN from Christ cannot be lost; and that is because He does not change; and the season and

time to get and gain in the Kingdom of Christ has never been better than today!

If you're lost GET CHRIST! Now is the accepted time, TODAY is the day "SEEK those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God"! But as for earthy riches and goods, don't set your heart upon them:

Proverbs 23:4-5, Luke 12:15-21

What are you spending your life to GET & GAIN; what are you SEEKING AFTER? Earthly riches and corruptible things that eventually find themselves in the trash or burn pile? Or heavenly treasure, which, once they are gotten & gained will never be lost! John 6:27, Isaiah 55:1-3

Christian, your faith in Christ is for times like this; Oh make no mistake, you are to walk by faith every day of your life, but in times of prosperity and plenty, your faith is not put to the test, but NOW it will be PROVED, it's being TESTED! It's easy to walk by faith in Christ when everything is going well. But are you going to believe God through this time and season of great loss?

"I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" ~Philippians 4:12-13:

**LISTEN TO ME: We will all experience seasons of getting or gaining, and losing or losses in this life: This doesn't just apply to money and things:**

In Christ, you will lose friends, you will lose family, some will disassociate with you because of Christ, and then, there will be times when you will lose them; when they die. And then, with age and because of our infirmities we will lose bodily strength and our ability to do things that we used to be able to do. But in the loss of our bodily strength and ability, may we see the great value of heavenly GETTING, and gaining wisdom that is from above as we prepare for our heavenly home.

Proverbs 3:13-18, 4:5-9, 19:8

Thank the Lord for seasons of loss when they come, knowing that God appointed them for your good and sanctification.

Philippians 3:7-14, Matthew 16:24-26, John 12:25

**"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to get, and a time to lose"**

Christian, EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE is a time to GET, GAIN, and SEEK AFTER heavenly and eternal wisdom and riches, and to count your earthly losses in this world to be good losses.

For you Christian, an earthly loss should result in a heavenly gain!

You are to be a stranger and a pilgrim in this present world; you are to be passing through it, and only sojourning in this

world; you shouldn't be seeking to root down, or make great gains in earthly riches, or build a great estate in the world. You are to be seeking a heavenly country; getting heavenly wisdom and laying up treasure there, which cannot be lost!

Hebrews 13:14: "For here we have not continuing city, but we seek one to come"