

Every Season Finds Its Meaning in Christ

Education 2017

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Ecclesiastes 1:1-8

Grace, peace, and mercy be to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Ecclesiastes it is written: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” This morning we’ve been hearing how every season of the Church Year finds its meaning in our Lord Jesus Christ. But this is also true of every season of life. From the promise of new life in spring, with wild flowers blooming and crops being planted through summer with the sun shine and warm days to autumn, with the changing of colors to reds, oranges, and yellows, and then on to winter when it is so cold.

God has ordered every one of these seasons to work the way in which it does. But as we continue through Ecclesiastes, there are some seasons which had not been in God’s original purpose. Ecclesiastes continues: “a time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

Again, not all of these seasons were in God’s original plan. He had designed the world and everything in it to work perfectly and to live for all time. There had been no death, no mourning, no losing, no war. But then Satan chose to turn against God. He led other angels against God and they were all cast out from heaven. As a serpent, Satan led Eve and Adam into committing sin. Then entered death. Then entered the other half of the seasons: mourning, weeping, warring, losing, and all the other imperfect, evil seasons.

But that sin also led to a season of waiting. God went to seek out Adam and Eve and He promised that a Savior would come, one of Eve’s own seed. Though Satan wanted to create only evil, God already began restoration. He forgave Adam and Eve and clothed them. And, most importantly, He gave them the promise of the Gospel. Help was on the way.

As you heard again this morning—or perhaps for the first time—that promise has been fulfilled. Jesus, the one in whom every season of the Church Year finds its meaning, came to earth. He came to earth that first season of Christmas. He lived among us through the Epiphany of His life. And He went to die on the cross in the Lent of His life. With the worst Friday of His life, He made it a Good Friday for all of us. He took your sins to the cross.

God had made the world and us to live in the ways He desired. He desired that we love Him and each other. Because of the fall into sin, none of us have been able to do either of those things the perfect way which God commands and desires. Our disobedience, inherited from the fall of Adam and Eve, is what we call sin. All of us have it and are sinners by nature of the Fall. In addition, we have done those things God has commanded us not to do, and refrained from doing the good which He has also desired. These actions are also sin.

But all of that sin of yours was paid for on that first Good Friday, when Jesus was nailed to the cross for you. All of your disobedience and sin required the punishment of death; but Jesus died in your place.

Yet that was not the end of the seasons. After Lent and Good Friday came Easter. On a Sunday morning, the first day of the week, women went to prepare Jesus’ tomb only to find that He was not in it. He was no longer there because He was no longer dead. He had risen!

Thus began the season of Pentecost, the season of the Church, the season of sharing the Gospel, the Good News that the seed who had been promised after the Fall has come. He has saved you from your sins.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus has made every season under heaven to be about Him—telling that Gospel Good News that we have been saved by Him. We do this as the Church. Every season of our Church Year proclaims what Jesus has done. Every season of the world we remember it. And every season in which

we find ourselves, we can be assured that it's all about Jesus. If in life, then by living to His glory. If in death, then by dying to be with Him. If in joy, in the joy of His salvation. If in mourning, mourning in the hope we have as ones who have been saved by His death and resurrection.

To God alone be all glory in this season and every season to come for the joy He has given us through His Son, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name. Amen.