

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"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 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."**

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

God's Word addresses every question that needs to be answered about life in this world. This section of the Book of Ecclesiastes is both sobering and comforting. It recognizes the fact that life has its seasons – its ups and downs. It assures us that it is just as "normal" to die as it is to be born. It tells us that it is not out of the ordinary to cry one day and laugh the next day.

This passage from Ecclesiastes goes on to list a few other "normal" antitheses of life. I wonder if God would mind if we took the liberty to add a few more antitheses to this list? I am wondering about: "A time of general well-being, and a time of pandemic; a time of ease, and a time of hardship; a time of planning, and a time of uncertainty." The passage already lists "a time for war, and a time for peace."

I always find it to be a comfort when God's Word acknowledges the fact that life has its ups and downs. This tells me that nothing out of the ordinary is happening, and that I should not expect anything different. Somehow just knowing that God's Word says this is the way it is makes me feel a little better about it. I would be concerned, and possibly have a crisis of faith, if the Bible taught us that God promises that there is only "a time to be born, a time to plant, a time to heal, a time to laugh, and a time to dance," with no mention at all about "a time to die, a time to pluck up, a time to kill, a time to weep, and a time to mourn."

I don't think this list in Ecclesiastes is intended to be a complete list. I think it is intended to tell us that there are "seasons in life." This applies to our own personal lives as well as to the whole world. There have been many pandemics in the world's history, just as there have been many periods of general well-being. This is the way of life. As I have said before, if "PANDEMIC" was the constant status of life in this world, the word, "pandemic" would not exist. The word, "pandemic" is the antithesis of being in a state of general well-being.

I hope that you find it to be a comfort the same way that I do, that God's Word does not try to tell us that there should never be times like the time we are experiencing right now. This passage from Ecclesiastes gives us a perspective of great wisdom to recognize the ups and downs, and the ebbs and flows of life. The one thing that is consistent in both states of being is God's love and His grace to sustain us.

God's peace!
Pastor Jim