

Remnant Life Church  
June 22, 2025  
**The Seasons of Our Lives**  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

We measure our lives in many ways and one of the most importance of those is time

- Everything we do during the course of our day is measured by and against time
  - It gives structure to our lives and has us where we need to be when we need to be there
  - As a matter of fact, virtually every aspect of our day is built around time
    - We vacation to get away for its constraints
    - Yet when a period of time is gone we lament for the lack of more time
  - We use it to measure our accomplishments – (Our accountant hasn't made a mistake on our tax return in 20 years!)
  - And it even determines how long our sporting contests last
    - Except, of course for baseball, where a game could, theoretically, last forever!
- It gives us a place to start something and even a way out when we point to our watch
- We measure it to the most finite degree and use it to give weight to our words when you might impatiently tell a sales clerk who is just taking his time with you, "Look, I haven't got all day."

The fact is, God is the creator of time - **Gen. 1:3-5**

- *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*
- God created the concept of a beginning and an end
  - And within an accumulation of those days we find the seasons of the year
    - *And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, (**Gen 1:14**)*
  - Everything that begins, comes to an end
  - Because without an end we cannot truly understand and appreciate value or worth of those moments

Yesterday, of course, was June 21 – the summer solstice

- What is that?
  - During the solstices, Earth reaches a point where its tilt is at the greatest angle to the plane of its orbit,
    - The further earth is away from the sun on the tilt, meaning the axis takes longer to complete and there is more daylight as opposed to night
    - The closest point means the axis of the earth's rotation happens faster and the daylight hours are lessened
  - There are two solstices

- The winter solstice – December 21 – the shortest day of the year in terms of sunlight
  - And the summer solstice – June 21 – the longest day of sunlight
- The summer solstice marks the change of the season from spring to summer
- And the winter solstice marks the change from autumn to winter
- This is all because of the wonderful, perfect creation of God
- So, too, in our lives we have seasons
  - They are times of our lives that God allows or orchestrates for our good that have a beginning and an end
  - Some of them are very positive and some can be very difficult
  - Katerina and I feel as if we have been in a difficult season that has lasted now for a little over 2 years
- Listen to how Solomon describes the seasons many of God's people walk through

### READ – Eccl 3:1-8

In our walk as Christians we live within God's time as individuals as well as within the church – we also call these seasons

- Those seasons begin and they come to an end
- But sometimes the hardest thing to do is to know when something has come to an end and then recognize the need for change
- *ILL* - Katerina and my decision not to stay at Yocumtown COG
  - Our not staying was necessary to allow something new to begin
  - If we had stayed it would have hindered what God wanted to do there next and what He wanted with and through us by starting a new church called RLC
    - If we stay in a place we do not belong we are preventing the next season from beginning
    - Remember, Jesus said that He had to leave in order for the Holy Spirit to come ([John 16:7](#))
    - When one time ends another always begins

There is an on-going challenge within many churches today that is not a new thing

- a. And it revolves around recognizing and releasing those things when a season has ended
  - Admittedly it is not always easy to discern
  - But many Christians and churches stay in things that God left long ago and then wonder why we are struggling or don't seem to be getting anywhere
    - The simple fact is: God's grace is always where He is
    - Even in the difficult times, His grace comforts and strengthens us
- We can become very busy doing the things of God while at the same time accomplishing very little and in doing so be completely outside of His will by staying in a season that God brought to an end
  - *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* by Charles Swindoll – Story of a man in Dublin in the mid 1800s rushing to catch a train. He climbed aboard one of Dublin's famous horse drawn taxis and said to the driver -"Hurry, I'm nearly late ... drive very fast". Off they went at a furious pace and the man sat back in

his seat and closed his eyes with some relief. After a while he opened his eyes again and glanced out the window only to realize that they were going in the wrong direction. It suddenly occurred to him that he hadn't told the driver where to take him so he called out, "Do you know where you're going?" The driver shouted back, "No, Sir I don't, but I am driving very fast!"

- God wants what we do for Him to prosper and bear fruit, but that will only happen **within the season** He has appointed
  - Joseph walked through every season God prepared for him
    - Some were very difficult – his 13 years in slavery and prison
    - Some were wonderful – Prime Minister of Egypt
    - But God was with Him through them all because he was in the right seasons of his life according to God's plans for him

What can keep us in places and circumstances that we do not belong?

- First, blind devotion to an activity or situation
  - The ones that are the hardest to give up are those that we have poured ourselves into
- Second, taking personal ownership of something that is not yours to take or keep
  - This is not my church, it belongs to God
  - And He can do with it as He pleases
- Third, familiarity – Why do we do it? Because we always have.
  - The level and number of activities many times defines a church and becomes its identity
  - What should define us is that we are passionately pursuing Him and therefore His love permeates everything that we do and say
    - In John's account of the Last Supper
      - Jesus washes the disciples' feet
      - He tells them that one of them will betray them
      - And just before He tells Peter that he will deny Him three times He says...
    - *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)*
- Finally, success will often keep us in seasons that have ended
  - The success of an event should not automatically mean repetition
  - The success of something within the church is about being in the right season of God's leading and it is the product of His grace for that time

Ultimately all of time is in God's hands

- *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? (Luke 12:25)*
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Prov. 3:5-6)*