

## SEASONS OF LIFE

*And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark **seasons** and days and years.” (Gen 1:14)*

### LIFE IS ORGANIZED AROUND SEASONS

- **Each season testifies to God’s involvement in His world**

*He has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their **seasons**; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy. (Acts 14:17)*

- **Each season has different conditions and activities**

*Flowers appear on the earth; the **season** of singing has come; the cooing of doves is heard in our land. (Song of Solomon 2:12)*

- **Each season is designed to accomplish God’s purposes**

*I will send rain on your land in its **season**, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.... The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in **season** and to bless all the work of your hands. (Deut 11:14; 28:12)*

*He changes times and **seasons**; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. (Daniel 2:21)*

- **Our job is to discern and choose God’s requirements for each season**

*Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed **seasons**, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord. (Jeremiah 8:7)*

#### Assessing *this* season

What is the season of your life? What is the season of this church?

What are God’s requirements for this season of your life? Of the church?

What role does God want you to play in your life? In the church?

## QUOTES OF NOTE

### God's involvement in His world

What if spring and summer are nature's way of expressing what Jesus was in fact trying to tell us? After all, nature is God's word to us also (Romans 1:20). If we paid close attention, we would discover something of great joy and wonder: the restoration of the world played out before us each spring and summer is "precisely" what God is promising us about our lives. (John Eldredge, *Desire*)

### Different conditions and activities of seasons

You may have heard an orchestra tuning up before a concert. It sounds like total chaos—oboes, cello, French horns, dozens of instruments all sounding off, everyone doing his own thing. Trills, groans, whistles, thumps—an absolute cacophony. This is how our desires seem most of the time. But then the first violin plays a long high C, and slowly, all the other instruments join in. They become focused, centered, ready to perform. (John Eldredge, *Desire*)

### God's purposes for seasons

Deep within history, as it gets itself written down in history books and newspapers, in the letters we write and in the diaries we keep, is sacred history, is God's purpose working itself out in the apparent purposelessness of human history and of our separate histories. (Frederick Buechner, *The Sacred Journey*)

### Discerning and choosing to follow God

To be sure, it feels wintry enough still: but often in the very early spring it feels like that...the spring comes down slowly this way; but the great thing is that the corner has been turned. There is, of course, this difference, that in the natural spring the crocus cannot choose whether it will respond or not. We can. We have the power either of withstanding the spring, and sinking back into the cosmic winter, or of going on into these "high mid-summer pomp's" in which our leader, the Son of Man, already dwells, and to which he is calling us. It remains with us to follow or not, to die in this winter, or to go on into that spring and that summer. (C. S. Lewis, *The Grand Miracle*)

### Application

Our season of life—whatever it is—is no barrier to having Christ formed in us. Not in the least. Whatever our season of life, it offers its own opportunities and challenges for spiritual growth. Instead of wishing we were in another season, we ought to find out what this one offers. (John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*)

### Conclusion

Wise men plant trees in whose shade they will never sit. (Native American proverb)

Wise women plant trees whose fruit they will never eat. (Ted's egalitarian version)