

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

(Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV)

One of my greatest memories of the four years we spent in the Midwest was the significant changing of the seasons. Winter was usually gray or brilliant white depending on whether it was a cloudy day with snow or a sunny day after the snow. Spring tended to be a light green as Winter tried to hold on before Summer finally arrived. Summer was an intense dark green as the plants seemed in a hurry to take advantage of the short growing season. And then Fall tended to be a golden brown as the corn and soybeans became ready for harvest. Each season was different but still a continuation of the previous and a prelude to the next.

As we approach our Fall season this month there are several things that perhaps come to mind. School is starting back as is football season, temperatures will thankfully begin to moderate, hurricanes and tropical storms become a more likely possibility. The Bog-Off, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas begin to come into our conversations and the stores.

Yet we should ask ourselves what God has in store for this Fall season. We tend to focus on the past or perhaps doing the same things we have always done. There is certainly comfort and value in that way of thinking. But there is also a risk that we are not being open to God's leadership as we go from season to season. Perhaps this Fall is meant to be more than football and holidays. If we are not open to God's Spirit leading us we may miss what he has in store.

As I mentioned in my reminiscing above there is beauty and purpose in all the times God gives us. Yet we must focus on being what he has called us to be. While Fall is generally a time for harvest it could be that God intends for this to be a season of growth for us. The same could be said about winter. Winter is often seen as a dormant period but God could intend it to be a time for harvest.

God has blessed us with a beautiful place to live and a wonderful creation to enjoy. Yet let's make sure that we do not worship the creation instead of the creator. Enjoy this Fall season and every season. They are a gift from God. But remember the "God" part of that gift. He intends us to use everything for his glory and promises to bless us for our faithfulness to that purpose. Jeremiah speaks beautifully and comforting to this:

For I know the plans I have for you,

declares the LORD,

plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Let us all make sure it his plans that are most important in our life no matter which season we are in.

Have a great month!

Pastor Tim

