

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

One of my favorite portions of scripture is in the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 A Time for Everything. I am so glad that God provides for us when everything is changing.

As we can see in the world around us, change is part of life. It is as constant as the tide, ebbing and flowing, bringing in the new and washing out the old. We find comfort in the words of Christian author, Oswald Chambers who said, "All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them." This reminds us that in all seasons of life, God has a purpose for us, and that purpose is rooted in love.



"A Time for Everything: Love Must Overcome Evil," is a profound reminder of the cyclical nature of life and the inherent power of love to overcome evil. This concept is deeply rooted in the wisdom of Ecclesiastes, where Solomon, the author, emphasizes that there is a time and season for everything under heaven. This notion of time and seasonality is not just about the physical changes we see in nature, but it also applies to our spiritual journey and moral choices.

The idea of 'a time for everything' is a powerful reminder that life is not static but dynamic. It is a series of changes, of ebbs and flows, of highs and lows. It is a journey filled with different seasons, each with its unique challenges and blessings. Life is not always about being on the mountaintop; there are also valleys to traverse. There are times of joy and times of sorrow, times of peace and times of conflict, times of love and unfortunately, times of hate. This is the reality of our human existence.

Paul at the end of his discourse on love tells us this: ¹³ ***And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.***

God has provided for us a beacon of hope - love. Amid these changing seasons, love stands as a constant, a force that can overcome the darkest of evils. This is not a superficial or transient love, but a deep, sacrificial love that reflects the very nature of God. It is a love that chooses to do good even when faced with evil, a love that forgives in the face of betrayal, a love that seeks peace amid conflict.

As we read in Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, there is a time and season for everything. This passage beautifully illustrates the cyclical nature of life and the inevitability of change. It speaks of various seasons of life, each with its own purpose and time. There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to weep and a time to laugh. Each of these seasons represents a change, a transition from one state to another.

Change is not only inevitable but also necessary for growth and development. Just as a seed must undergo change to become a tree, so must we undergo changes in our lives to grow spiritually. These changes may be challenging and uncomfortable, but they are necessary for our spiritual growth. They push us out of our comfort zones, challenge our faith, and force us to rely more on God. They help us to grow in faith, character, and maturity.

Moreover, change reflects God's dynamic nature. He is always at work, always doing something new. As we read in *Isaiah 43:19*, "**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**" God is a God of change, and He calls us to embrace change as part of our spiritual journey.

However, it is important to note that while our circumstances may change, God's love for us remains constant. As the renowned theologian A.W. Tozer once said, "While it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes there is a God who hasn't surrendered His authority." This quote reminds us that even amid change and uncertainty, God is still in control. He is our constant, our rock, and our foundation. Even when everything else is changing, His love for us remains the same.

There is a time for everything under heaven. As we navigate the changing seasons of our lives, let us hold onto God's love and His commandments. Let us strive to be the extraordinary people God has purposed us to be, showing love and overcoming evil in all we do.

As we continue to change let us do it with God's hand on ours.

Yours in Christ Jesus , Pastor Don



Some Youth Winter Camp fun!



Love Feast, Communion,
and Feet washing
March 28 at 7 PM



Palm Sunday, March 24. Come join us at 11 AM and hear our choir perform some beautiful music to celebrate the Easter season.



More Youth Winter
Camp fun!

Thank you,
Pastor Leslie and
your team for
taking the youth to
Winter Camp.



Cooking with Pastor Don

Irish Soda Bread with Raisins

Ingredients:

Makes one 8"-diameter loaf
Nonstick vegetable oil spray
2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
5 Tbsp. sugar, divided.
1 ½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ tsp. kosher salt
¾ tsp. baking soda
3 Tbsp. chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces.
1 cup buttermilk
⅔ cup raisins



Step 2

Using lightly floured hands, form dough into a ball and transfer to prepared pan. Gently press dough to flatten slightly (dough will not reach edges of pan). Sprinkle with the remaining 1 Tbsp. sugar.

Directions: Step 1

Place a rack in middle of oven; preheat to 375°. Coat an 8"-diameter cake pan or cast-iron skillet with nonstick vegetable oil spray. Whisk 2 cups all-purpose flour, 4 Tbsp. sugar, 1½ tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ tsp. Morton kosher salt, and ¾ tsp. baking soda in a large bowl to combine. Add 3 Tbsp. chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces, to dry ingredients and rub in with your fingers until mixture resembles coarse meal. Make a well in the center and pour in 1 cup of buttermilk. Gradually mix dry ingredients into buttermilk just until incorporated and a shaggy dough comes together. Mix in ⅔ cup raisins.

Step 3

Bake bread until golden brown and a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, 40-45 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack and let bread cool in pan 10 minutes. Turn bread out onto rack. Serve warm or let cool completely.



All the services begin at 7 PM.

March 3: Worthington Presbyterian
March 10: Franklin Union Baptist
March 17: Center Hill CBC

Pastor Luke Speck
Pastor Vic Sansing
Ron Shafer



WAKE UP! IT'S BREAKFAST!

The All U Can
Eat Breakfast
will be **Sat.,
March 16,
7-11 AM.**



This breakfast is sponsored by
Men's Fellowship. Prices are:
Adults is \$12, Kids- 5-12 is \$6
and kids 4 and under is free.

The food is so good and the
fellowship is wonderful.

Come and join us!

Soup & Salad ? Mmmm! So Good!

On Sunday, March 3 from
12:30-2:30 PM, there will be a Soup &
Salad Bar at the Fellowship Hall. De-
licious soups, all kinds of salads,
breads and sweet desserts will be
offered.



The cost will be \$10 for Adults, \$5 for kids 4-12, and
Free for kids 3 and under.



The children will be per-
forming their Easter pro-
gram on Sunday, March 17
at 11 AM.



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