



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes from November 1st, 2020

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- Good morning and welcome...
- For the past few weeks we have been talking about RHYTHMS and how **having the right RHYTHMS are key to having a better, healthier, joyful life!**
- We started by talking about how All of God's creation functions in RHYTHMS.
 - The RHYTHM of the waves and the tides and how the earth and the sea talk to each other.
 - The RHYTHM of our bodies...
Our heartbeat. A beat and a rest, a beat and a rest, a beat and a rest... each beat sending life through our veins!
When we breath we inhale and exhale...
We sleep and we awake. We work and we rest.
 - The RHYTHM of the planets.

“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.” Genesis 1:14 (NKJV)

- The RHYTHM of the night and the day, weeks and years.
- **The RHYTHM of the seasons:** Spring turns to summer, summer to fall, and fall to winter... and then the cycle begins again.
We are in the FALL season... Cooler, birds going south, leaves...
- What is your favorite season of the year? Why?

Mine is Spring...

- The hope of a new beginning.
- The birds are back.
- Leaves are budding and nature seems to be coming alive.
- All of us have our reasons why a season might be our favourite! Sometimes a season might remind us of a special experience! (A good memory, a favourite sport/activity—snowshoeing/hiking)
Sometimes a season might remind us of a bad experience! (A lack of sun, a tragic death, loneliness)

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 tells us that “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck 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;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain, and a time to lose; A time to keep, and a time to throw away; A time to tear, and a time to sew; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (NKJV)

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven

- Today I want to leave you with three PRINCIPLES that will help us **MAKE THE BEST OF OUR YEAR:**
MAKING THE BEST OF YOUR YEAR

Having the best year emotionally, physically, mentally & spiritually.

With all the negative news out there, the **fear** and **anxiety** of a Coronavirus spike (the “*second wave*”), economic uncertainty, it’s easy to lose sight of the **HOPE** we have in Jesus Christ.

– He is still the one that said...

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

– He is still the one that said many times (Hundreds of times!)...

“Do not be afraid!” (Genesis 15:1, John 14:27, etc.)

– He is still the one that said...

“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)

As we look at the weeks ahead, the months ahead, at the seasons ahead, and even at the challenges ahead, we have **HOPE**. We do not need to be afraid. **HE WILL NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US!**

- Let me leave you with three PRINCIPLES that will help you **MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR YEAR.**

The first one comes out of our Ecclesiastes verse...

“To **everything** there is a season, a time for **every purpose** under heaven”

1) Know the PURPOSE for the season

“To **everything** there is a season, a time for **every purpose**”

So, every season has a purpose! **And if you miss the purpose, you miss the season!**

– **Illustration:** TV series - Home Improvement with **Tim Allen**

“Does anyone know what time it is?” “It’s tool time!”

A month ago, in this same RHYTHMS series, we were talking about the word “TIME” and how there are two words for “time” in the New Testament Greek:

– **kronos**: a specific space or measurement of time (Chronometer). Example: *Today’s countdown... Your watch...*

– **kairos**: a moment, an occasion or a season. Examples: “*It’s harvest time*” “*It’s Thanksgiving*”

“Be careful how you live—not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15–16)

This isn’t “*kronos*” (Not about keeping busy), it’s “*Kairos*” (Taking advantage of the opportunities, the season, savouring the moments).

– **ILLUSTRATION:** I read a story about a dad strolling with his little boy on a beach. They were throwing clamshells into the onshore wind and watching them curve in the wind. It was a fun moment. Throwing those clamshells seemed like the best possible thing to be doing. After a while, the dad looked at his watch. It was lunchtime. They left the beach reluctantly. Only after they sat down to eat did the dad wonder why he had stopped the game. What is so important about noon? Why must we be hypnotized by the clock? After lunch they went back to the beach, but the moment was gone. The wind had turned and the game, that special moment, was over forever.

Be wise, redeem the season, know the season and why it's there for it has a PURPOSE!

If you miss the purpose, you miss the season!

– If it's Thanksgiving, give thanks around the table. Don't rush off and talk about politics.

– If it's Remembrance Day, remember!

The Next PRINCIPLE that will help you **MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR YEAR...**

2) Celebrate the GIFTS of the season

I believe that every season comes with gifts, opportunities, blessings. But so often, we are so focused on the urgent, on the problems, on the tasks, that we miss these "gifts"!

Illustration: Chickadees... freezing cold out yet they sing

The magic of the snowflakes on a winter night

What is possible is not to see these "gifts", to miss them, to turn just as they brush past us. So, stay, wait, ponder, behold, and wonder. Take in the "gifts" God gives us each day!

In Genesis 1, after God created the days, years and the seasons it says, "**and God saw that it was good**" and wants us to "see" the good in each day, in each season!

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22–23 (ESV)

The last PRINCIPLE that I want to mention that will help you **MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR YEAR...**

3) Keep CHRIST in your seasons

There is a reason that the Christian Church follows a Liturgical Calendar which consists of the cycle of Christian seasons:

– Advent – Christmas – Easter – Ascension – Pentecost

– These are designed to remind us of our faith, to teach our children and to celebrate the Gospel in our day to day life.

Most are not aware that today is **All Saints Day**. A day that Christians remember a celebrate the Saints that have gone on before us who faithfully passed down the Christian faith. People like the first Pastor of this church, **Rev. Earl Jacques**.

But instead, our society pushes those values out by celebrating ghost and goblins, witches and monsters!

Our secular materialistic world keeps pushing in and pushing Christ out: (a) **Santa Claus** and **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**, the **materialistic almighty dollar** keep pushing Jesus out of Christmas. (b) The **Easter Bunny** keeps changing the Easter narrative that Jesus died for our sins and rose again offering us Eternal Life.

KEEP JESUS IN YOUR SEASONS!

Each week on Sunday, we pause and set aside a day to keep a SPIRITUAL ROUTINE for the same reason. To place Jesus at the START of our week and to keep our faith front and centre of our year!

The Bible starts with these words: "In the beginning God..."

Place Him at the beginning of your future LIFE!

You will never find true fulfilment in your year unless you invite the one that created the RHYTHM of the seasons and the cycle of the year to be front and centre of your life.

It starts by making Him the Lord of your life, the Lord of your day, the Lord of your week, and the Lord of your year.

Great is HIS Faithfulness!

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness Mercy and love
Great is Thy faithfulness - Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me*