

## Seasons in Serving the Lord Acts 20:18-20

### Intro

Ready for spring. When summer heat, ready for fall. Enjoy Tenn for seasons.

Seasons in Christian life. I don't know if I ever get this point across. Never learn myself. When saved, not sunny, no rain, no cloud, no drought, no storms. Young Christian often overwhelmed. Saved, then feel good, feel blessed, then blindsided by difficulty. There are seasons in the years of the Christian. Today laugh, tomorrow weep. Today joy, tomorrow sorrow. Today rested, tomorrow tired.

Get ready. Prepare. For if you don't, disappointed to point of quitting.

Paul sought to prepare young student Timothy: 2 Tim 4:2

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Instant=standing and present. In season=when convenient and that is easy but what about when not convenient, i.e., out of season.

This is "Paul's Farewell Address to the Ephesians":

### Verse 18

#### Hardness Acts 19:8-10

3 months in synagogue and no believers. Only hardened the more. Followed by 2 years disputing in the school of Tyrannus.

What would you have done? How would you have responded? No converts. Most who heard only got harder in heart.

NOAH/JOB- only reason in Bible is record his

trouble/JESUS/ELIJAH

Loved God as much as ever. Prayed as much as ever.

#### Healing Acts 19:11-12

A new season. Makes you glad you did not quit in time of hardness. There was physical and spiritual healing. Disease and demons departed.

#### Salvation Acts 19:18

Word did not return void. Many believed. Finally, after all those months and years of disputing and hardness some began to accept salvation.

Great picture of not quitting- lives at stake. I know it is hard but you can't stop praying, believing for salvation will eventually come. If leave town, many souls may never receive.

#### Housecleaning Acts 19:19

Old time folk confessed sin publicly. We sin and last thing on mind is confession. If you had a dirty book in your bookcase, you

would burn it privately! They were more proud to clean up than ashamed they were sinners.

### **Persecution Acts 19:23-41**

Back where he started. His visit to Ephesus began with hardness and ended with persecution. Acts 20:1 he departed.

Gal 6:9 Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

### **Eccl 3:1-8**

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

1 Pet 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations"

Always in season:

Humility Prov 6:16,17

Tears Acts 20:31

Temptations- only the grave will free us