

LBC- A Time to Remember, and A Time to Forget

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—

There are times appointed by God for everything- every event under heaven- and opposite actions are required at different times.

The trouble is that we are creatures of habit- we get stuck in a particular 'time.'

² A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

³ A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear 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 throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

⁶ A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

⁷ A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

⁸ A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

The passage of time, and the unfolding of new sequences of events lead to a change in seasons.

Changing seasons require that we change our mode of operation.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

¹¹ He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

There is a time to remember, and there is a time to forget.

Ezekiel 16:62-63

⁶² Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, ⁶³ so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done," the Lord God declares.

Ezekiel 39:25-26

²⁵ Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. ²⁶ They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their *own* land with no one to make *them* afraid.

Some of us have failed to remember what we have been saved from, and the grace of God has lost its wonder for us.

Some of us are stuck in the memory of a season that changed long ago, and it is keeping us from making further progress.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

Paul had to work harder in one respect because he had more to overcome!

1 Timothy 1:12-16

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Our memories are with us forever, but they are only meant to drive home the marvel of the grace of God!

As an object of great grace, I become an example of just how great God is, and that nothing is impossible in Jesus!

Micah 7:18-20

¹⁸ Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob *And* unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.

For some, it is time to remember all we have been forgiven, and to let it lead us to worship and serve.

For others, it is time to forget, and enter a new and joyful season with God!