

Light and Life

Solomon and Babe Ruth

Baseball legend Babe Ruth is credited with saying, “Every strikeout just brings me closer to my next home run.” This is really just a hyper-optimistic paraphrase of the musings of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). Solomon lists contrasting elements of life – all of which have their time and season. As God ordained the changing seasons of the earth (Gn. 8:22), so He also designed life to be cyclical and in constant motion.

One encouraging lesson we can take from this is that bad times don’t last. When things aren’t going our way, it may be difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel – especially if we have been struggling for a long time. But if we can use Solomon’s wisdom to look at our difficulty the way Babe Ruth looked at his batting slump, surely we can see that good things are in store!

The other side of this coin, of course, is that life isn’t always sunshine and rainbows. Just as there is a time to dance, there is a time to mourn (Eccl. 3:4). We need to be prepared when those struggles come and develop a mindset of faithful trust that God will take care of us no matter what else may happen.

Solomon also understood that God “has made everything beautiful in its time” (Eccl. 3:11). The last three words of that phrase are important. Patience is key! We must have faith in the working of God that even when we don’t understand the process, beauty awaits!

All this talk of time and waiting may distract us from the fact that Time itself won’t last forever. “He has put *eternity* in their hearts” (Eccl. 3:11). If we get discouraged in the cyclical nature of life, we should find comfort that someday the cycle will end, and we will “always be with the Lord” (I Th. 4:17).

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Our Precious Children

*Our precious children, each on their own,
Will face the world, their faith be known.
Will it be on solid ground,
Each step they take to Christ be bound?
Or will they struggle through each day,
With heavy hearts from Satan’s way,
Reaching out, in darkness lost –
The bitter pain – their soul, the cost?
O’ help me, Lord, my God above
Each passing day declare Your love,
To train my child Your word to heed,
To walk each step in word and deed,
That when their journey’s end draws near
I pray their Savior’s voice they’ll hear:
“Come to Me and enter in.”
In God’s sweet home we’ll meet again.*

- MM

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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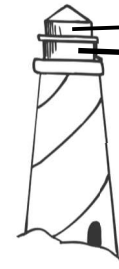
Kindness costs
nothing.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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“But I Don’t Agree”

Okay, then let’s talk.

What is it, exactly, that you don’t agree with? Maybe I have misunderstood your point of view. Or maybe you have misunderstood mine. If we can have a mutually respectful conversation, we may find out that we are not as far apart as we think. At the very least, we will gain clearer insight into the other’s thinking.

Or perhaps we disagree over a matter of opinion – a judgment call. We all have our opinions; so whose should prevail? The Bible sets forth a number of individuals to whom we should defer in matters of judgment, including – at the top of the list – elders (He 13:17), and then

those who have “devoted themselves to the service of the saints” (1 Co 16:15-16). Pride must be set aside when those in the trenches voice their judgment.

And then, maybe our disagreement is not a mutual misunderstanding or a matter of opinion. Maybe we do not see eye to eye on a fundamental principle of salvation – perhaps something as basic as the role of faith in justification. Then, let’s talk. With good hearts (Lu 8:15) let us open the Bible, study relevant verses (in context, 2 Ti 2:15), pray for a clear understanding of His will (Ep 1:16-17), and stay humble – always (Ep 4:1-3).

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

Shut-ins: BPennington, SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SINGING – Tonight is our regular end-of-month singing! Come prepared to join with us as we “teach and admonish one another” in these songs!

SENTENCE SERMON – “What is conditional is not the same as what is earned.” – Russ Bowman, commenting on Ac 2:38 & the need for baptism