

'TIS THE SEASON...
(SERMON SERIES - PART 2 OF 2)

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1. INTRO: SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK

We learned that:

The term “**Tis the Season**” comes from the Christmas Carol – “**Deck the halls**”

'Tis definition:

It means both "it is" or "this is"

“It is the Season to be jolly.”

We read Ecclesiastes 2 – Where wise King Solomon tried an experiment by “living it up” and discovered that

- * **Pleasure** accomplishes nothing, and that
- * **Possessions and Wealth** are meaningless – chasing after the wind!

We understood that ...

1. 'TIS THE SEASON TO REFLECT

Especially this time of the year –
As king Solomon did – we need to use this time to reflect back and examine our strengths and weaknesses during the year so that we can grow

2. 'TIS THE SEASON TO RESTRAIN

This time of the year there is the tendency to overspend and overindulge, like King Solomon did. The Devil loves this time of the year so that he can tempt us to sin and overdo it! And he is relentless!

3. 'TIS THE SEASON TO REST

This is the time of the year when we need to rest. Wise King Solomon advises in Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

Ecclesiastes 4:

5 Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves.

6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

Today we find out what other advice wise king Solomon has for us, in preparing for this time of the year.

2. PRAYER

3. MESSAGE

So, other than “This being the Season” for:

- Reflection
- Refraining; and
- Rest

4. 'TIS THE SEASON FOR RELATIONSHIPS

There is no better time than the end of the year to invest in good relationships.

To make time for

- Your family (and extended family),
- Friends and
- Especially your spiritual family.

I know that not all of us are Sanguines – Who gets energized by being around people but God made us social beings...

And wants us to spend time together because **we need each other.**

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

8 There was a man **all alone**; he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless—a miserable business!

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: **10** If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

3 STRANDS NOT QUICKLY BROKEN... GOD IS THE 3rd STRAND

Beautiful analogy... Another analogy – Wheel Prop

WHEEL ANALOGY: - OUR RELATIONSHIP

1. THE HUB – Represents God

- Centre of the Wheel & Hub holds everything together
- If the hub is off-center then the ride will be Bumpy/uncomfortable and eventually damage the wheel.

2. THE SPOKES – Represents the us/members of the Church

- Stabilizes the wheel – if one is missing the wheel is unbalanced
- We need each other – Each have a role to play & Responsibility

3. DISTANCE BETWEEN THE SPOKES

- We get closer when we get closer to God (three cords)

4. THE RIM AND TYRE – Represents the Church or Godly Relationships

- Tyre - Supports us when the road is rough
- Prevents us from moving to far away from God and guides us towards God and
- As long as we're connected to the Rim – there is hope.

We need to **make time for** and **show appreciate** to each other

Question: From which Christmas Carol are the words:

**“Faithful friends who are dear to us,
Gather near to us – Once more”**

Answer: “Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas“

ANOTHER SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:10-16

10 Be devoted to **one another in love**. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** **Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.** **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16** Live in harmony with one another. **Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.** Do not be conceited.

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS FROM ROMANS:

1. **Make the time & be consistent** –

- *“Be Devoted”,*
- *“Never lacking in zeal”*

- Relationships don’t grow automatically.
- Invest in your relationships – like a marriage relationship or relationship with your children
- You need to spend time with that person to grow the relationship.

2. **Expand your relationship circle and be inclusive** –

- *“Associate with people of low position”,*
- *“Be Hospitable”;*
- *“Mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice”*

EXAMPLE: My deep chat with **De Wet and Corneel**, last Saturday – After everyone else left... learned so much

- Parenting tips; and just
- Tips on being a disciple.

- Invite someone over to your house or invite him or her along.

Disclaimer:

We do however, need to be careful who you spend time with....

Ask, **“Will this person have a GOOD or BAD influence on me?”**

ANSWER: Will this person influence you to **Over-indulge or Overspend** – Alcohol, Gossiping, Swearing, and Overspending. Remember – *“Tis the season to Restrain.”*

It’s not what’s under the tree that matters; it’s who’s gathered around it.

So...

Romans 12:13

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Which leads us to our next point...

5. 'TIS THE SEASON FOR REACHING OUT

Here I'm **NOT** referring to Door knocking but...

Reaching out to people, as you go along this festive season...

By being a light to the World

HOW? - See Romans 12 again:

- **Being hospitable** - inviting all and treating everyone the same.
- **Being joyful in hope**, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.
- **Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.**
(Ecclesiastes 3 – Time for everything under the sun – Verse 4: *A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance*)
- **Helping those in need and do good!**

What does wise King Solomon say...

Ecclesiastes 3

12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

Another scripture

Colossians 4:5

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Question: From which Christmas Carol are the words:

“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from Heaven's all gracious King”

Answer: “It came upon a mid night clear“

In fact these lyrics came from:

Luke 2:14 (KJV)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This is part of the Nativity Story – which we celebrate this time of year:

This is the message the **Angels proclaimed to the shepherds!**
Who very excitedly went to tell everyone what they've seen and heard.

This, I believe is - **What God wants us to proclaim during this season** as we Reach out to all around us.

We need to -

- Proclaim Gods Glory,
- Declare His peace and
- Share Good will toward men – because Jesus was born

How amazing would it be if we all did that this festive season!

Reach out to **the lost** and **less fortunate**.

The Final and most important point...

6. 'TIS THE SEASON FOR REVERENCING GOD

This is the time of the year when we should **appreciate God** and **what he has done for us**.

Ecclesiastes 8:12

Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who **fear God, who **are reverent before him**.**

Instead of spending less time with God – Spend me time at his feet reverencing Him.

I don't think we fear God, like we ought to!

The Story of Uzzah in 2 Samuel 6:1-7 and 1 Chronicles 13:9-12:

- David and the 30,000 able young men – Celebrating with instruments as they were bringing the Ark of the Covenant down from the house of Abinadab on the new cart.
- One of the oxen pulling the Cart stumbled and as the Ark of the Covenant was falling, Uzzah reached out to catch it.
- But God struck him down and he died.

What? Why? The crime does not match the punishment? Why

2 Samuel 6:7

The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah **because of his irreverent act**

IN CONTRAST, Isaiah understood how to be reverent and understood **Gods Holiness**.

ISAIAH 6: 1-8

- Isaiah saw the Lord Exalted, on the throne with God's Robe filling the temple.
- Above the Lord were Seraphim with six wings –2 for covering their face and 2 for covering their feet and two for flying. Saying to each other:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

- Their voices caused the Doorpost and Threshold to start shaking and the temple started filling with Smoke.

Isaiah's first words:

ISAIAH 6:

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

- Then one of the Seraphim took a coal from the Altar with tongs and put it on Isaiah's lips and this made him Holy...
- "Who will go", said the Lord?
- Isaiah – "Here I am Lord, send me"

We need to remember:

- God is Holy!
- Even though He loves us, **He despises the Sin!**
- Therefore, **We cannot continue sinning.**

Romans 6:2 - We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Hebrews 12:28

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Lets **not be like Uzzah** but **like Isaiah** who worshiped God acceptably with reverence and Awe.

Let us use this season to get to

- Know Him;
- Worship Him;
- Appreciate this HOLY God; and
- Reverence him! –

DON'T TAKE GOD'S HOLINESS FOR GRANTED.

The **Shepherds and Wise men understood this** and traveled a long distance to Reverence the King of king.

We have that privilege every day, thanks to Jesus – lets use it.

Question: From which Christmas Carol are the words:

“Oh come let us adore Him”

Answer: “Oh come all Ye faithful“

5. CONCLUSION

This is the most wonderful time of the year so Let find the time to:

- **Reflect**, so that we can grow in 2019
- **Restrain Ourselves** from Over indulging and Overspending
- **Rest** – Physically but also find true rest in Him.
- Invest in Good **Relationships**
- **Reach out** to the needy and the lost as you go along,
- **Reverence God** -He is Holy and wants us to be Holy

Remember...

The Magic of Christmas is not in the presents but in His presence.

Conclude with **King Solomon conclusion** at the end of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 12

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the duty of all mankind...

AMEN!