

Thinking about.....at Ladore

A NEW SEASON

With Tom Taylor and others

March 13-15, 2009

I. Introducing our Study:

- A. Hello...just in case we are not sufficiently friendly
- B. A new season! What does that mean? As to a “season” and “new”

Basically, we are in a setting where we have not been before but we are in a continuing development of many years and seasons. This is new in that our association with it is fresh, previously inexperienced but realistic. The challenge is to live it with and after the guidance of God!

- C. Our Studies: Well, somewhat like this:
 - 1. A new season but...rooted in the past
 - 2. A new season encouraged by the present
 - 3. A new season challenged by the future
 - 4. A new season measured by eternity
- D. Our basic Scripture begins with Philippians 3:13-17 with a quick reminder of Ecclesiastes 3:1

II. A New Season: rooted in the past

- A. Introducing this concept...history repeats itself: Romans 15:4
- B. The season is new but....
 - 1. the people are the same! (with a few additions and subtractions)
 - 2. the joys and sorrows are repetitive
 - 3. the problems are essentially the “same”
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 - 5. the opportunities are “renewed” to a large degreeSo it is a time to take our key text and be renewed with a goal established
- C. How, then, shall we order the “new” season?
 - 1. Remember what the Lord has done redemptively, etc.
 - 2. Renew the mind! Romans 12:2
 - 3. Strengthen the commitment 2 Corinthians 4:16
 - 4. Commit to a service of duty Ephesians 4:23
 - 5. Yield to the calling of the Spirit: Romans 8, Galatians 5

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D. The procedure

1. Observe: The past is our witness to the work and care of God.
2. Take each step in accord with the Word of God and the guidance of the Spirit.
3. Press for the "prize"...not for yourself....but for the Lord

E. Conclusion: Live forgiven and look expecting to see the blessing of God in a new day welcoming a new season.

III. A New Season: Encouraged by the Present

A. Introducing our thinking:

This is the time we have to live. There are problems in many areas but with every breath we are given fresh opportunities in our time of life. The fact that we are alive (I am serious about this) is encouraging. We are able to do something if we take life as a gift and use it judiciously. There are two aspects that must be studied more carefully:

1. Living our Identities (Ephesians 4)
2. Growing in grace (2 Peter 3:18)

I will discuss them in this order or as we say in Latin....

B. The Matter of Identity..it makes a giant difference when it is used correctly...no doubt I will illustrate this till all are bored!

1. Now are we the sons of God 1 John 3:2, etc.
2. We are the body of Christ: Ephesians 4:4 (1 Corinthians 12)
3. We are the Lord's people: Psalm 95:7
4. We are the Lord's heirs: Romans 8:17
5. We are the "gifted" people 1 Corinthians 12
6. We are the "stones" of the temple : Ephesians 2

The challenge is to remember our identities and be thankful for them to the point where we want to see them lived out day by day. We are challenged to remember this and to desire to live it out. It is not so simple in practice but it is absolutely clear in possession.

C. Growing in Grace is more difficult to express and to demonstrate... but the challenge is factual and visible in the lives of the Apostles and saints in every age. It is not an optional matter but a taught principle. I humbly offer a few suggestions..

1. The importance of growth
2. "By grace are you saved" Ephesians 2
3. There is grace available for every need or trial
1 Peter 5:10 2 Corinthians 12:9
4. Grace is a gift and is cultivated by love and obedience

D. Conclusion

Growth and spirituality are hard to measure in ourselves and others. The best measuring in my opinion lies in the matter of worship, commitment, and obedience to the known will of God: the Scriptures.

But as we are alive we are enabled to live in the new season and to see it develop the testimony of God. The new season is encouraged by the present....as it shows how our lives may honor the Lord who has called us to Himself.

IV. A New Season: Challenged by the Future: Hebrews 12:1-14

A. Introducing our discussion:

We are not overly intelligent about the future. There are some things we know about it in general while knowing less of the specifics. For instance, we know that the enemy will continue to deceive and assault the testimony, we know that the Holy Spirit will continue to support the testimony and give a path of guidance for us; we know that the promises the Lord has made will be fulfilled; we know that Our Lord is coming again and the prophetic program will be fulfilled, we know that our state of redemption is certain and we know many other things in these general lines. We do not know all the steps that will be taken but we know that the end is sure and in that light we live in the joy of the Lord. We, in this new season, are challenged by what will come to pass to live in the present for the glory of the Lord. The future calls us to faithfulness and the hope for tomorrow stimulates the energies needed for today. No doubt some more of my stories will appear at this point so...be patient, please!

B. Some questions bringing us to terms with today and tomorrow:

1. Will we seriously take responsibility for the exercise of our spiritual gifts and privileges? (1 Corinthians 9)

2. Will we reach out forcefully with the Gospel?
3. Will we follow the example of our Lord in humility and dedication of purpose?
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There are many more questions but for now.....

C. Some advice with regard to the future and our commitment:

1. Learn from the past...1 Corinthians 10:1-12
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V. Final note for these discussions:

It is coming but I cannot articulate it at this time. Be sure that you appreciate the new season and are given the opportunity to live it for the joy of the Lord and the witness to all.

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