

February 26, 2024

NO RANDOM TURNS

. . . a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. Ecclesiastes 3:2 (ESV)

When I read the scripture verses of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, it takes me back to the 1960's when as a little girl I would put my 45 single on the turntable and listen to these verses being sung in "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by the band, The Byrds. The song's theme, "a time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap," is a reminder of the impermanence of life.

"A time to be born, a time to die" -- the timing of our coming into the world and going out of it--- are fixed by God. It is appointed that they shall die; and particularly Christ, whose birth is at the time appointed by the Father, in the fullness of time; and whose life could not be taken away before his hour had come. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon realizes that one cannot affect the timing of one's birth or death. It is a time that God alone has determined. Neither can he change the seasons of the earth. There is a planting season and a harvest season determined by God. The earth will "Turn! Turn! Turn!" Births and deaths will keep happening. Additionally, too often we try to reap during planting seasons and plant during harvest. God knows everything that will happen in our lives and His timing is never too early or too late.

While we struggle to discern His timing, we should be encouraged that God did not merely leave us to deduce his character and wisdom from nature. In Jesus, the Creator of all stepped into terrestrial time, into our frame of reference. In fully human form, He "dwelt among us" (John 1:14). God further displayed the marvelous wisdom of His timing when the time had come for the Son of Man to be glorified (John 12:23). Jesus obeyed his Father to the point of death, offering for all time a single sacrifice for our sins.

Prayer: Father, help us to trust your timing in working out the details in our lives. You make all things beautiful in your time, which counts for all eternity. Amen

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