

“The Wind of Change”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / September 13, 2026

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. You need to have a biblical theology of change.

A. Change was part of God’s good design.

Genesis 1:14 “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. **And let them be for signs and for seasons**, and for days and years.’”

B. Sin introduced loss and pain into our experience of change.

Genesis 3:19 “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; **for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**”

Before the Fall: change without decay.

After the Fall: change can mean deterioration, separation, endings, and ultimately death.

*Sometimes what we dislike about change isn’t actually the change.
It’s the loss that accompanies it.*

II. You need to know God rules over all our changing seasons in life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

The Hebrew word translated “season” is זֶמַן (*zeman*), and is only used 3 other times in the Old Testament:

- **Nehemiah 2:6** - The king asks Nehemiah how long he’ll be gone and when he’ll return, and Nehemiah gives him a *zeman* - a **set time**.
- **Esther 9:27, 31** - The Jews establish the *zeman* for observing Purim - **designated dates**.

III. The “wind of change” is beginning to blow in our church—and that’s OK.

Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 “A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to

lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

4 Commitments to Ground Us When The Wind of Change Blows Through Our Lives

1. We won't equate “different” with “bad.”

- a. Planting isn't more righteous than uprooting (Ecc. 3:2).
- b. Laughing doesn't necessarily mean God is blessing you; weeping doesn't necessarily mean something has gone wrong. (Ecc. 3:4).

*Change can be bad. Change can be good.
And sometimes change is just change.*

2. We'll embrace the bittersweet nature of change.

*You don't have to choose between being sad a season is ending
and being excited a season is beginning.*

3. We'll loosen our grip on seasons God never promised would last forever.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 “Say not, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”

*There's nothing wrong with looking backward and saying,
“God was so good to us in that season.”*

*There's something dangerous about looking backward and saying,
“God was better to us in that season.”*

4. We'll remind each other that while everything has a season, Jesus doesn't.

Hebrews 13:7-8 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**”

Leaders have seasons. Jesus doesn't.

Hebrews 1:10-12 “And, You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe You will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”

*Our security isn't found in having an unchanging season.
Our security is found in having an unchanging Savior.*

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. How does knowing that change was part of God's good design – and not simply a result of the Fall – affect the way you think about change?
2. What change or season in your life has been especially difficult because of the loss that came with it?

3. Where are you most tempted to equate “different” with “bad,” rather than recognizing that some changes are simply different?
4. Is there a past season you may be holding onto too tightly or looking back on too nostalgically? How can you thank God for that season without believing He was better to you then than He is now?
5. What would it look like practically for you to find your security in the unchanging Jesus rather than in unchanging circumstances, leaders, or seasons?