

TIMES AND SEASONS

Earlier this week it felt more like Winter than Fall.

- Our family got into the mood to decorate for Christmas—so we did.
- The temperatures earlier this week were in the 20s and 30s, and that wind chill was brutal (I actually had to turn the heat on in the offices at camp).
- We even had snow on Monday and Tuesday!

It's not even Thanksgiving and I'm already thinking about and feeling like winter.



This got me thinking about seasons and the changing of seasons. When we think about the different seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter), they all have one thing in common:

C H A N G E .

Seasons = Change.

Seasons are inevitable, which means change is inevitable.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Solomon isn't talking about Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring, because he says that "for EVERYTHING there is a season."



If you look at the list that follows in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon is talking about the seasons of life. Granted, the analogy of the change of physical seasons is perfect to illustrate the seasons of life and that fact that change comes.

So, as we observe the literal changing of the seasons, what can we learn about life—and change?

SEASONS ARE APPOINTED BY GOD

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,

Not only is God in control of the seasons, but He appoints their time of arrival and their time of departure. A season cannot come without Him making it come and it cannot end unless He makes it end.

God is in control and appoints the times of change—even if we don't like it or even if we aren't ready for it.

The fact is that seasons will come—which means change will come. "Ready or not, here it comes!"

Even if those seasons and changes catch us off-guard, we must realize that they don't catch God off-guard.

The new season, the change, has come exactly when and in the way that God wanted it to come!

SEASONS HAVE A PURPOSE

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

This means that the cycle of seasons (summer, fall, winter, spring) all serve a purpose.

What is the overall purpose for the change of seasons? **GROWTH**

As the seasons come and go, it is a constant cycle of renewal for continued growth. The change in seasons is essential to the continual growth of our ecosystem!

A guy by the name of Leonard Sweet said this about change, *"What is the difference between a living thing and a dead thing? In the medical world, a clinical definition of death is a body that does not change. Change is life. Stagnation is death. If you don't change, you die. It's that simple. It's that scary."*

If you don't change, you die. This is why the change of seasons is so important. If our ecosystem does not go through its changes, it will die.

It is the same with the seasons of life. We will all experience various times and seasons throughout our life—both good and bad—and every one of these times, seasons, and changes are for the purpose of continued growth.

Every season that we go through in life, every change that we have to experience, tears us down in order to refine us, renew us, and help us to grow stronger.

SEASONS DON'T LAST FOREVER

The seasons come and the seasons go...Summer eventually turns into Fall. Fall eventually turns into Winter. Winter eventually turns into Spring. Spring eventually turns into Summer.

No one season lasts forever. No one change is permanent. You don't just go through one change, but you will experience multiple seasons and changes in life.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Whatever season you are in life right now, be encouraged—it will eventually pass, change will come, and a new season of life will emerge for the purpose of your continual growth.

SEASONS INEVITABLY COME BACK AROUND

Everyone knows that after Summer always comes Fall; after Fall always comes Winter; after Winter always comes Spring; and Summer will always come back after Spring.

It's a continual cycle. Seasons will always come back around. You will always experience change.

Sometimes the Winters are not as bad as the previous Winter. Sometimes the Summer isn't as hot as the previous. No matter the change in the degree of the season, the fact is, the season always comes back around. You can count on the fact that the next season is around the corner. You can be assured that a change in the works.

Season's Greetings...

Derrick Marrs
Ministry Director

NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Help Bancroft Bible Camp
Raise Funds by Taking Your Vehicle to**



For A Great Shine Every Time!
November 15th, 2025 - February 15th, 2026

Purchase any single car wash to help Bancroft Gospel Ministry raise funds for our Bible Camp to help with operational costs and support our efforts! We will receive 30% of the single wash sales earned using our fundraiser's wash code!

Visit any of the TruShine Car Wash Locations

203 Linden Square Drive Bristol, VA 24202	25017 Western Loop Abingdon, VA 24211
3033 Boones Creek Road Johnson City, TN 37615	2227 Fort Henry Drive Kingsport, TN 37644
116 Allensville Road Sevierville, TN 37876	1912 Highway 394 Blountville, TN 37617
1541 W Jackson Blvd Jonesborough, TN 37659	

Follow the Instructions Below

Pull up to one of the pay stations.
Follow the screen prompts to buy a single wash.
Push the "ENTER WASH CODE" button at the bottom left of the screen.

Enter Wash Code: 14140

14140 is the unique number associated with this fundraiser.
You must enter this code to participate in the fundraiser.

Select the car wash of your choice.
Select your payment method. Insert Payment.
If preferred, print the receipt for your records.

**Thank you for participating in the
Bancroft Bible Camp Fundraiser!**



You can now partner with Bancroft through donating stocks to help financially support the ministry!

By donating stock that has increased in value, you will avoid paying tax on the capital gains. Many donors have found this is an easy way to increase their donation while helping themselves at tax time.

[Donate Stock to Bancroft!](#)



You've heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but have you heard of **Giving Tuesday**?

It's a global day of giving, and it's a great opportunity to make a difference in your community by donating to the causes and ministries you care about.

Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (so, **December 2** this year). Would you consider financially partnering with us on a monthly basis to continue God's work here at Bancroft?

Feeling Giving?



For the price of a movie ticket or a fast-food meal, you can make a lasting impact for the kingdom of God by supporting a ministry who has served the Lord and our community for over 100 years!

Click the button below and become part of a team of people desiring to make an eternal difference by financially supporting Bancroft! You can give **more** than \$10 if you choose and you can even make it a recurring donation for your convenience!

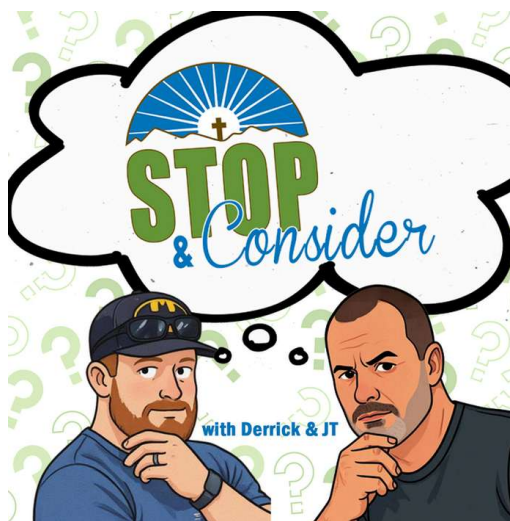
JOIN THE CLUB!

NEW EPSIODE DROPS TODAY!!

Episode 8, Part 2 of NO PAIN NO GAIN, is here!!

We wrap up our discussion trials and storms in life. We hope that Part 1 was encouraging, but we hope that Part 2 leaves you even more encouraged to endure through those trials.

We only have a few more episodes in Season 1, but we are working on some new additions for Season 2, so we hope you'll stick with us!



If you aren't familiar with podcasts or how to listen to them, feel free to simply visit our website and listen from there. Here is the link for your convenience:

www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider

If you are into the podcast world, below are the links to your favorite podcast platforms for easy access. Currently, the only podcast that has video is through Spotify, but videos to YouTube are coming in Season 2! Be sure to subscribe, like, and comment!

Apple Podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stop-and-consider/id1843097127>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@STOPandConsider>

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5an3QuCPoO4dH9Xa4xp2uc>

Amazon Music:

<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/41b83bb5-ef2f-4f4e-ae1f-bcd85adbc43f/stop-and-consider>

iHeartRadio:

<https://iheart.com/podcast/296982721/>

New episodes drop every two weeks, and as always, THANKS for listening!

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