Intro: 1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a 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.

I. God has granted us the gift of time – 1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a 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.

a. Make time for the seasons of life

• Our life is full of various activities and events. So often is the time when we will make time for work and hobbies that we leave out what we should be spending time and that is family, a Shawnee sunset, the fall of autumn leaves, vacations after a hard year at work. Quality time that you need to take for once it is gone you can never get it back.

° 13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” James 4:13-15

b. Here are the different periods of life:

1. There is the time of life – time to be born and a time to die

• There is an appointed time for everyone. It is this appointed time that we are allowed by our free will and God divine providence to live out our life. What we decide to do is very important for the well-being of our lives that we live. Then we all have an appointment with death. We all will die.

° 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, Hebrews 9:27

2. There is the time of work – to plant and to pluck

• This is one of the most powerful verses on the need to work. If you don’t work, you don’t eat. Welfare should be for the poor and disabled, not the lazy and arrogant.

° 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

3. There is a time for justice – to kill (execute justice) and to heal

• I have been going back and forth on these one. Should the death penalty be applied today? Yes, but not for every time. Cases like self-defense, accidentally, those who go to war, and a few others should not be given the death penalty. But we do need the death penalty for those who commit the most horrific murders and have not conscience. Ted Bundy, Saddam Hussein, Al Baghdadi, Hittler, Mussolini, and countless others that have no soul, and have killed hundreds of thousands of people just for their power and entertainment.

• 13 “You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

4. There is a time to start-over – to tare down and build up

• Everyday is a new day. There will never be a yesterday again. Life gives us stuffy times, hard times, and times made of suffering, headaches and heartaches. With all these pressures, mistakes are made, and sins are committed. But with that thought in mind, let me share with you a word of inspiration, there is a time to rebuild and build up. Life may stare you down, but God will give you time to rebuild (build up) again.

° 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4, 5

° 2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. 3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalms 147:2, 3

5. There is the time for being human – to cry and to laugh and mourning and dance

• When I council people who have lost a loved one, I will always tell them to give yourselves time to grieve. But don’t allow that grief to control you. It’s Ok to laugh and dance when you feel like doing so. What we have here is the bible understands us and telling us that we need to allow ourselves to be human.

° 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,
13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy. Psalms 65:12, 13

6. There is a time for planning – “a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together”

• This is a picture of preparation and planning. The stones were removed from the land for planting the harvest and those stones were then used to build walls or used to build houses for protection. Both require planning and preparation.

° 27 Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house. Proverbs 24:27

7. There is time for proper social etiquette – “a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing”

• It is appropriate to show affection for each other. But there are times when showing too much affection is not appropriate. Social etiquette has been lost for years. We have forgotten the golden rule and no longer believe in dignity and integrity.

° 12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

8. There is time for business investments – “a time to seek, and a time to lose”

• The word seek here means to gain, enquire, get, make review. There is nothing wrong with trying to gain wealth, or to enquire about ways to make money. We need to learn also the being willing to accept the risk of losing money when your investment fails. The problem with making money is when we allow money to control our lives.

° 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:10

9. There is a time to let things go – “a time to keep, and a time to cast away”

• When mistakes are made and sins are committed, people usually get hurt. This is where we have a hard time letting things go. Both the one who committed the sin against someone and those whom the sin was committed to. Maybe this one is the most difficult thing to do.

° 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Matthew 18:21-22

10. There is a time to mend torn down fences – “a time to tear, and a time to sew”

• Just as we let things go in the last section, we must learn to mend what has been broken down. How do we do this? Forgiveness. This is the most important thing we can do. There are times in life where things will tear you down, take time to sew those pieces back together.

° 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17, 18

11. There is a time to let your voice be heard – “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak”

• Most difficult thing to do is know when to speak and when not to. Choice your word wisely. We need to let our voice be heard and there are times when you need to be quiet. This is just exactly what Jesus did while here on the earth. He spoke to million for 3½ years and when it was time to die the bible said that he opened not His mouth.

° 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Matthew 26:63

° 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Matthew 27:12-14

12. There is a time for dealing with mixed emotions – “a time to love, and a time to hate”

• We are called to hate something in life. We are not called to love everything. I hate when a wife or child is abused. I hate when a man or women is raped. I hate it when the guilty is set free and the innocent is condemned. We are taught here to learn the differences between what you can hate and love what needs to be loved.

° 11 A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back. Proverbs 29:11

13. There is a time to stand against an evil nation – “a time for war, and a time for peace.”

• That is right, you heard me right, there is a time for war. There was a great war in heaven against evil, there was our great worldwide wars name WW1 and WW2, there is a war against Muslim extremist, and we have a great war against the devil.

° 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. Revelation 12:7-10