

A Time for Everything

A Devotional to the Tascosa Class of '67 presented by Victor Glenn on May 28, 2017 to those attending the 50 Year Reunion and tour of Tascosa High School.

We have always heard the old adage that there are two things certain in life - death and taxes. As a CPA, I definitely know about the taxes. In fact, some of my clients felt like they were having a near-death experience when they realized how much income tax they owed. But besides death and taxes, there are really two additional certainties in life.

One of these certainties is **change**. Over the years there have been considerable changes in our world, our outlook, and our appearance. When we attended Tascosa we did not look like we do now. (Fifty years from now, you young students with us today will not look like you do now.) We have to have our high school photos on our badges just so we can recognize one another. Just think of the technological changes since high school. Fifty years ago we did not have computers, cell phones, or tablets. We did have television, but most of our shows were still in black and white. My, how much change we have seen.

Think back to how you were fifty years ago at this same time. We had gone through three years of high school education and were now at a point of major change in our lives. No more routine, structured life in our high school classrooms. We were graduating and now ready to change the world; however the world changed us. The dreams, goals, excitement, fears, unknowns, and choices were now ours to face. You can see from visiting with each other the last few days and from reading the classmate profiles in the Reunion Memory Book the various choices that we all made intentionally and the choices that were sometimes forced upon us. Life certainly brought change. Many changes were good, and many were not so good.

There is a bluegrass song called "A Letter to Myself" where the singer, who is now much older, writes a letter to himself as a young person. In the letter, he encourages himself and warns his younger self about what is to come in life. If you could, what would you say at age 68 to yourself at age 18? You might say don't make that choice that you did, or you might encourage yourself to say yes, make that choice. Yes, take that job or, no don't. In relationships, you might say to avoid certain relationships, or to make the most of others. In the letter you could prepare yourself for what was to come.

During our high school years, in 1965, the band, The Byrds, came out with a hit from a Pete Seeger arrangement of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, titled "Turn!, Turn! Turn!" Do you remember it? Let's look at that passage:

*"There is an appointed time for everything.
And a time for every event under heaven;
A time to give birth and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted;
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up;
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance;
A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;*

*A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing;
A time to search and a time to give up as lost;
A time to keep and a time to throw away;
A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;
A time to be silent and a time to speak;
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.”*

At age 18, we were not really able to relate to this forecast of changes that life would bring. But now, fifty years later, at age 68, we do relate. We have experienced it all. Yes, change is certain. We know that now.

The other certainty is the certainty of the **truth** found not only in this passage of the Bible but in all of its passages. Once again we have a choice: to accept that truth or to reject it. We are now treading the paths of life's winter season, but we still have life to live, so many changes still to come, and choices still to make. Let's look at two men from the Bible as they look back over their lives and reflect on the results of the choices they made. One is King Solomon and the other is the Apostle Paul.

King Solomon had it all. He had great wisdom, power, wealth, prestige, status, and too many wives. He states that he denied himself nothing. With all of this, what was his end-of-life conclusion? Everything was all vanity (emptiness, useless, and meaningless). (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

The Apostle Paul at the end of his life did not have any of these things. He had no material possessions; he had been persecuted, jailed, beaten, and left for dead. What was his end-of-life conclusion? He had fought the fight; he had finished the course; he had kept the faith. True joy was his. (2 Tim. 4:7)

So what was the difference between these two men? One forsook the truth in his later years while the other continued to embrace the truth to the very end. The choice regarding the truth of the Scriptures is still yours to make, but it will be made no matter what. Making no choice is still a choice.

As we once again leave our school today and its hallowed halls, we still will face the certainties of death, taxes, change, and the truth. We still have many choices to encounter and make. I hope and pray that you will always make the right choices by remembering the certainty of the truth in God's Word.