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The Voice

OCTOBER 2021

I have written about my love for the seasons here in Missouri many times. At this time of year we have a wonderful confluence of baseball season (Cards have clinched a wildcard slot!), football season (Chiefs are giving a bit of concern right now), and deer season (Will this be the year I get that 8 point buck I sometimes see in the back yard?). Here at the Lake we also have what is called “tourist season” that roughly coincides with summer. As such, tourist season is basically over ‘til next year.

The prophet Jeremiah watched as his nation, and even his hometown, being destroyed by a foreign nation. He has preached repentance to the people, knowing that was their only hope for God to withhold the judgment He had pronounced against them. They’d had an opportunity to change their ways, a “season” of grace, if you will, during which they could have turned to the Lord and found mercy. But they didn’t. In Jeremiah 8.20 the prophet cries out: Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved! Their “season” was over, and a new season of exile was beginning.

Looking beyond the temperatures and the declining hours of sunlight, we see that we are in the midst of changing seasons in other ways as well. When we consider our own nation, it is clear that there have been seasons of blessing and it now appears we are entering a season of challenges. There was a season of freedom in our nation, but that season is waning. There was a season of seeking God, but as a whole that season is also past. There have been seasons of hope and seasons of renewal and seasons of thanksgiving . . . but we are entering a new season and I suspect it is a season like we have never experienced before. Our President even warned us during the last campaign that we are facing a “dark winter”. Will America go the way of ancient Judah?

Solomon lived several centuries before Jeremiah, and he also wrote of seasons: There is an appointed time for everything. And there is 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. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, NASB)

As we walk through the changing of nature’s season here in the Ozarks, summer has indeed ended, Autumn is here – a change of seasons. One thing we often focus on a little later in the fall is the giving of thanks. It is very appropriate to have a season of Thanksgiving and remember that all our blessing come from the Lord. It is better still to give thanks always....

And one particular matter for which we should give thanks is the pastor God has given us to lead us. October is pastor appreciation month. This doesn’t mean that October is the only time we need to appreciate our pastors! But it is a reminder to us that we should appreciate our pastors rather than oppose them or be apathetic about them.

Two easy ways to show your pastor appreciation: First, consider whether your church is paying him as much as is reasonably possible. It is not the church's job to "keep him humble", it is the church's job to provide for him so that he can be free to minister to the flock without stressing about how will provide for his family. Do the best you can in that regard and God will bless your church. Second, let him lead. God called that man to be the pastor of the church – do not get in the way of what God is trying to do. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments". We know children honor their parents best

by obeying them. In the same way, the best way to show love and appreciation to your pastor is to follow his leadership rather than opposing, second guessing, or grumbling. If you appreciate your pastor as the man whom God has called to lead your church, this season of his tenure will be a season of blessing!

Your Servant
Bro. Timothy



**Pastors & Wives Breakfast
Saturday, October 9, 2021,
8:30 AM**

**Blue Springs Baptist
Church
Hwy Z. Eldon MO**

**LOBA WORKDAY
AT THE MISSION
HOUSE
401 CHAMPAIN, ELDON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER
16, 8:00 AM**

*There will be inside and outside work,
painting, brush clearing, dishwasher
repair and other maintenance.*

**FISH FRY
MONTGOMERY BAPTIST
CHURCH
1125 Boot Drive
Camdenton
October 16, 3:00 PM**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO
OUR
5TH SUNDAY SING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31
6:00 PM
MT. HERMAN BAPTIST
CHURCH
325 HWY FF, OLEAN**

Attention all Youth!

(7th – 12th grade)

On Saturday, October 23rd we will meet at Blue Springs Baptist Church on Hwy Z. We will have outdoor games and a bonfire for cooking hotdogs and making s'mores. We will also have a worship time. We will start @ 2pm, and we will be done about 7:30pm. Plan on coming out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

This event is free – but we will receive an offering to help offset the cost of the food.

2021 Deacon Conference

On November 5-6 we will be having our triennial Deacon Conference at FBC Eldon. On Friday there will be a catered dinner for all deacons and potential deacons, and their wives. Then on Saturday there will be a variety of workshops for the men to encourage and equip you in your ministry as a deacon.

The dinner on Friday starts at 6:30. The Saturday training sessions will start at 8:45am and be done by noon.

Some of the workshops on Saturday will be:

- Deacons Ministering to Widows

- “Men filled with the Holy Spirit”

- Deacons as Guardians of Sound Doctrine

- Deacons as Peacemakers

- and more!

The cost of the conference is \$18.00 per person attending the dinner. Please make reservations by Nov 1 so we can let the caterer know how many to prepare for. If you are not able to attend the dinner on Friday, and are only coming to the Saturday sessions, the cost will be \$5.00 per person. As an expression of their appreciation of their deacons, and as an investment in their future ministry, each church should consider covering the cost for their deacons and potential deacons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9: Pastors & Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z, Eldon, 8:30 AM

October 16: Workday at the LOBA Mission House, 401 Champaign, Eldon, 8:00 AM

October 16: Fish Fry, Montgomery Baptist Church, 1125 Boot Drive, Camdenton, 3:00 PM

October 23: Youth Event, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z, Eldon, 2:00 PM

October 25-27: MBC Annual Meeting, Branson

October 27-30: Montgomery Baptist Church, 1125 Boot Drive, Camdenton, to host Revival

October 31: 5th Sunday Sing, Mt. Herman, 6:00 PM

November 5-6: Deacon Conference, FBC Eldon, 209 S. Aurora St., 6:30 PM

November 7: Time Change – Fall back one Hour

November 13: Pastors & Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z, Eldon, 8:30 AM

November 25: Thanksgiving

