

Navigating the New Normal Series
Week 4 outline
7.05.20
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Psalm 1:3

Seasonal Pace

- I. **Created with Seasons** (Ecc 3:1-8)
 - A. Seasons are Intentional and Cyclical
 - Intentional: "there is an *appointed time* to everything"
 - Cyclical: Life has Rhythm
 - 1. Spring: Planting
 - 2. Summer: Growing
 - 3. Fall: Harvesting
 - 4. Winter: Resting
 - B. Neglecting Rest
 - 1. Devaluing Rest develops an unnatural loop of perpetually planting and plowing under.
 - a. It leads to eroded soil and tired dirt.
 - b. Winter is when:
 - 1. Our branches get pruned
 - 2. Our soil gets amended and enriched
 - 3. Our roots heal and grow deeper
 - 2. Discontent and Falsely Prosperous
 - a. It distorts our definitions of contentment and prosperity
 - making both totally based on our own ability to produce and provide for ourselves
 - 1. Our happiness becomes circumstantial
 - 2. Our focus becomes temporary rather than eternal
 - 3. We find ourselves weary and discontent
 - C. Unsustainable to our Pace

WHEN WE NEGLECT REST
OUR PACE BECOMES UNSUSTAINABLE
AND IT MAKES US TIRED AS DIRT

II. 6 P's to Pace (Psalm 1:1-3)

- A. God's Pace reminds us that we are **PLANTED**
 - not wild or volunteered
- B. God's Pace is **PURPOSEFUL**
 - he intentionally plants us by streams of water
- C. God's pace equips us to be **PROVIDING**
 - "that yields its fruit"*-literally: to give, to put, to set
- D. God's pace is **PROMPT**
 - timely... *"in season"*
- E. God's pace keeps us **PLIABLE**
 - "its leaf does not wither"*
 - instead of dry and brittle we become bendable and submittable
- F. God's pace brings proper perspective to our enduring **PROSPERITY**
 - False prosperity only has to do with temporary wealth and self-gratifying luxury.
 - Enduring prosperity has everything to do with our eternal salvation and Gospel-transformation.

III. The Right Pace requires the right Pace-Setter who will bring *Lasting Contentment* to our lives (Phil 4:11-13)

- A. Following Jesus changes how we walk
 - walking in the path of righteousness for his name's sake.
 - Col 3:6**
- B. Following Jesus changes where we stand
 - standing firm in the faith found in the gospel
 - Col 3:7**
- C. Following Jesus changes where we sit
 - finding rest firmly rooted in Christ and the truth of his word
 - Mark 6:31**

HEALTHY PACE IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE ONE WHO
FINISHED THE RACE FOR US...
THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH... JESUS