

New Seasons
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I can tell that it is nearly that time of year again. The weeds are growing everywhere and yellow pollen is now covering everything. I have already had to get out my lawn mower and make sure it is running properly. Before long, my hay fever will be a constant reminder that spring has arrived.

I have to admit, though, that even though it involves hay fever and mowing grass, I really enjoy the spring. I love seeing all of the trees blooming. The Japanese Magnolia trees are either in full bloom or losing their flowers to the emerging leaves. The Bradford pear trees are either covered in new blooms or giving way to new leaves. Green is beginning to cover all of the trees and signs of life are everywhere.

The reality is that I don't just enjoy the spring; I enjoy each season. I am always glad to see the new season arrive and the old one move into the past. I enjoy the changes.

A few years ago, one of my sons called me on my birthday and asked how I felt about having lived half of my life. I replied that I had, in fact, lived all of my life. What he meant was that I had lived half of my life expectancy, but the reality is that I believe that I have truly lived all of my life as fully as I have been able to. Part of that is enjoying the seasons.

I have learned that I need to enjoy the season I am in now. I don't need to be constantly looking with anticipation to the coming season. Neither do I need to live in regret that my favorite time of year is now past. I have learned that each distinct time of year has things of its own to offer. The summer has plenty of opportunity to go to the beach and swim. The fall is the time I enjoy football as well as a relief from the heat of the summer. I love the winter and snuggling indoors with the one I love. Spring is a time that we see new life budding out everywhere. Each season has something unique to offer.

All of life is that way. Some people spend all of their time worrying about their lost youth and trying to reclaim it. Many people approach their later years with reluctance and dread. Others seem to want to rush to retirement or a chance to cease their labors. Far too few seem to really just enjoy where they are.

I heard someone say that we should not live in the past, because we can do nothing to change it. We should not live in the future because we have no guarantee of it. Instead, we should cherish the gift of life right now. That is why it is called the present.

Paul had learned that it is important to appreciate every aspect of our lives. He stated that he had learned to be content, regardless of his condition in life. Whether rich or poor, imprisoned or free, he was content because that was the life God had given him. It was simply up to him how he chose to use it. We can either enjoy our lives and make the most of what we are given or we can spend all of our time bemoaning what we do not have. The choice is yours.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.