



Come Before Winter!
2 Timothy 4:9-22

The Bible Has a Lot to Say About Time!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, N.I.V.

For everything there is a season, a time for everything under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away

A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

- All of us are slaves to time more than we would admit
- Time matters because it is the “substance of life.”
- When time is gone, Life as we know it is gone!

How Much Time Do I Have Left?

- No Human Knows, but the Psalmist asks God to teach us to, “number our days” Psalms 90:12
- We should realize the “brevity of life” so that we live wisely
- James 4:14, ***“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”***



In 2 Timothy 4:21 Paul Gives Timothy Some Specific Instructions to, “Do thy diligence to, Come Before Winter!”

- This might seem like a throw-away line in scripture, but it is very, very significant. Paul was in prison in Rome
- Geographically it was very difficult in the Mediterranean Sea for a ship to travel between November and March
- So if you were going to get to where Paul was, you had to travel earlier or it would be too late. Paul had already written in 2 Timothy 4:6 that, *“the time of my departure is at hand,”* meaning that he probably wouldn’t be around the next year

There Was an Urgency in Paul's Request!

- You can't wait forever to respond to things that are "time specific" (exams, job applications, scholarships, etc.)
- The "Telephone call" about that aged parent or grandparent, "Hurry!"
- Paul is telling Timothy to "come now," "it's now or never"
- Historically, the Titanic luxury liner was doomed due to a lack of urgency (dismissed iceberg warnings from other ships)
1500 died



Winter Is Coming for All of Us!

**Solomon Says Remember Your Creator in Your Youth,
Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**

- **Vs.1 “before the difficult days come”- When the years begin to take their toll and you’re not as strong and vigorous as you were. Before your best years begin to fade. Before Winter!**
- **Vs.2, “when the sun and the light, and the moon and the stars grow dark”- before your sight betrays you, myopia versus hyperopia (development of cataracts)(night driving)**
- **Vs.2, “when the clouds return after the rain”- One difficulty replaces another difficulty due to aging (winter is on the way)**
- **Vs.3, “when the keepers of the house tremble”- That’s when your body no longer serves you as well as it used too**

Muscles begin to atrophy, grip is not as strong, joints stiffen and become “weather predictors”, spine loses height (stooped), Blood vessels lose elasticity, stiffen, and BP increases, Insulin Deficiency

- **Vs. 3, “ when the grinders (teeth) become few”(need teeth extractions, partials, or dentures) Reminders that winter is on the way**

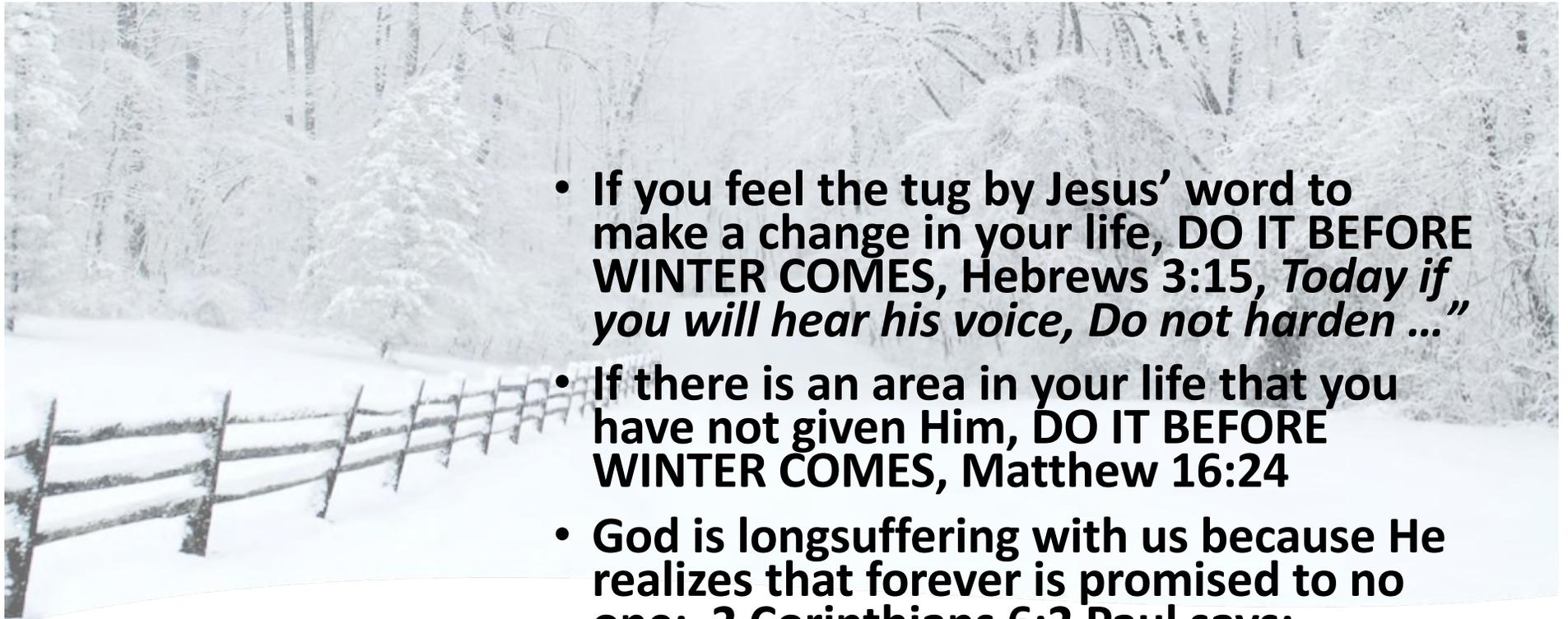
Winter Is Coming for All of Us

- Vs.4, “when the doors to the streets are closed and the sound of grinding fades” - when you can’t go and come at will like you used too, the motivation and mental energy to get up and go for another 40-hour work week (grind), isn’t even there any more
- Vs.4, “when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint.” - the mere sounds of birds that used to wake you up, no longer stirs your ears or your attitude to work
- Vs.5, “when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets” - everyday activities are perceived as dangerous (climbing stairs, routine errands in traffic are scary, everybody looks suspicious to you, paranoia creeps in, stress)
- Vs.5, “when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire is no longer stirred” - your hair blooms white and your get up and go has “gotten up ... gone”
- Vs, 7 “and the dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it” We’ve come from God

Knowing All of This, Three Apprentice Devils Were Coming to Earth for Their First Assignment

They met with Satan who asked them what strategy they would follow

- The first one said, “I will tell them that there is no God”
“That will not work” Satan said, “because in their hearts they know there is a God.”
- The second one said, “I will tell them that there is no hell.”
Satan said, “because they know that there is so much evil on the earth, they know that there must be a hell.”
- The third devil thought for a moment and replied, “I will tell them there is no hurry and no urgency!” Satan replied, “go and tell them that, and you will ruin them by the millions!”



- If you feel the tug by Jesus' word to make a change in your life, **DO IT BEFORE WINTER COMES**, Hebrews 3:15, *Today if you will hear his voice, Do not harden ..."*
- If there is an area in your life that you have not given Him, **DO IT BEFORE WINTER COMES**, Matthew 16:24
- God is longsuffering with us because He realizes that forever is promised to no one: 2 Corinthians 6:2 Paul says:

As co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says ... now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Come to Christ Before Winter Comes to You!

There is an
Urgency to
Live for God
Right now!

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

