

“Seasons”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break 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 cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

And so this season of homeschooling my children is too rapidly coming to an end. Who knows what God has in store for me now? I know that He had planned from the beginning that I would do this, and that, through it, He would save me. I know that from him to whom much is given, much is required, and that one requirement He asked of me was to train up my children in the way they should go. I now prepare to leave a season of training and teaching and enter a season of advising (only when asked) and praying. It is truly hard to let go.

However, I also prepare to leave a season of service to this homeschool group. I have served this chapter in some capacity for ten out of eleven years that I have been homeschooling. I have struggled with this decision to leave the chapter leadership, but I now see that my season is over, and it is time for someone else to lead, if indeed the Lord is leading someone else to do so. If not, then perhaps the season for this group of families existing within the framework of LEAH is also over. I don't know the answer to these questions. Perhaps you do. Believe me—it's hard to let go of this, too.

Enough about me—I prefer instead to focus on the miracle that is our salvation. I prefer to rejoice over the blessing that the Lord has given us in our children and grandchildren. I prefer to praise Him for the opportunity He has given us to spend such precious time observing and influencing the formative years of their growth, and to marvel in the work He is doing in them.

He has also given us a great gift in that, for the time being, we are free to raise our children and grandchildren in the admonition of the Lord. Let's never lose sight of what a wonderful and precious thing this is, especially because we may not always have it.

There are many signs that indicate that our liberties may be eroding. If this is so, let's remember the exhortation from Scripture that we redeem the time, knowing that the days are evil. Let's not waste what time we may have, but use every opportunity we have to prepare our children to stand firmly on the Rock and to share the gospel with others. Let's feed those children that God has placed in our care with His truth, and let us share His good news with those whom God brings into our lives—souls who need to hear the gospel and see its power alive in us.

As for those of you here who will continue beyond this year in the Lord's command to homeschool, I pray that you would continue to support each other and be there for each other, even if you join another chapter. I pray that your friendships remain intact, even if this chapter does not. I pray that you would continue to supply wisdom from God's Word to each other when it is needed and make this group more than just a homeschool support group. I pray that you would continue to allow the friendships between the children to deepen and grow. Yes, this may take some effort, but we all know that raising children always does.

I also praise our Lord for the many almost innumerable friendships I have made during my eleven-year adventure called homeschooling, and I look forward to enjoying the remaining months of this school year with all of you. I also look forward to the hopes of continuing our friendships in some way beyond my homeschooling years. We can always hold more art classes.

Although words fail me, I will simply say that I have been deeply and truly blessed to know all of you. I ask many, many blessings for all of you, all to the glory of our mighty and sovereign God alone.