

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

MAY 13, 2020

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-5

One recipe for success involves being at the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, with the right heart. As I reflect upon my time here, I can see how this recipe played an important role in how we've progressed as a church. If I would've stayed in Tulsa another year, I would've missed God's timing and probably would not have become your Pastor. When we do something is just as important as what and how we do something. Whether it comes to communication in marriage, to preaching, to sports, to comedy, to baking and to re-opening our church and embracing, timing is everything.

ABOUT TIMING

1. End times events.
 - A. Rapture, tribulation, second coming, millennium, Satan loosed, judgement, new heavens and earth.
2. Jesus' entire life was based on timing.
 - A. **GALATIANS 4:4** He arrived at the right time.
 - B. **JOHN 2:4 (NLT), 7:30 (NLT), 12:23 (NLT)** all speak of timing.
3. The devil understands timing. **MATTHEW 8:29**
 - A. **LUKE 4:13 (NIV)** The time to tempt was when Jesus was hungry. After his defeat, he left looking for a more opportune time.
4. In warfare, timing is important.
1 CHRONICLES 12:32
 - A. The sons of Issachar were men who understood timing. This verse was part of a discussion about David's mighty men and their skills in battle. In warfare, timing can bring success or failure.
2 CHRONICLES 20:16, 20
5. Timing and decision making. John Maxwell, author, speaker, Pastor said "good leaders recognize that when to lead is as important as what to do and where to go. Timing is often the difference between success and failure."
 - A. Four observations:
 - The wrong action at the wrong time leads to disaster.
 - The right action at the wrong time leads to resistance.
 - The wrong action at the right time is a mistake.
 - The right action at the right time results in success.
 - B. **PROVERBS 27:14 (NIV)** Right action, but wrong time.
 - C. Warren Spahn (southpaw pitcher) said "hitting is timing. Pitching is upsetting timing."
6. Different attitudes exist in state and local governments about churches re-opening in light of Covid-19.
 - A. Pastors in California presented their governor a proposal to consider for re-opening their churches on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday. To ensure the safety of members, guest and people within the community safety measures would include installing plexiglass, covering pews with plastic, wearing masks and gloves and taking everyone's temperature.
 - B. What should we and others do?
 - One size doesn't fit all. Each state determines what action is required.
 - We've joined other pastors in signing a petition that was sent to governor Wolf about re-opening our churches in PA.
 - My desire is to do the right thing at the right time in order to ensure success, and the safety and well-being of our members, guests and people in our community.
 - An important consideration is reaching people in our community by conducting ourselves in a way that honors God.