

Faith Christian Fellowship
June 18, 2017
Due Season
5: Let's Get Lit!!!

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 3:1 / Philippians 2:13-18

At the end of last year, the Lord said for 2017 we were to build our faith, share our faith, and stand in the gap. As part of that instruction He told me to "study seasons." He said we are about to see three seasons overlap: Unprecedented blessing on those who dwell close to Him. Ezekiel 34:26, harvest from the years of planting Galatians 6:9, an open window of opportunity to reach people 2 Timothy 4:2.

Last week: We have looked at harvest in the lives of God's people who live close to Him and are firmly planted, and harvest for seeds that have been planted for many years. We began looking at the idea of bringing in the harvest of souls, particularly that there really is a hell, and that Jesus is the only way to avoid it. The church is supposed to leaven the world, not the other way around. We are living in an open window of opportunity, but we have to take our Christian life seriously.

3 metaphors for the Church in the world.

- 1) **Leaven for the loaf:** Lk 13:20-21
 - a) Leaven is often a symbol sin or corruption: 1 Cor 5:6-9 / Luke 12:1 / numerous Old Testament scriptures, ex. Ex 13:7
 - b) Can refer to corrupt doctrine: Matt 16:11-12 / Gal 5:9
 - c) Smith's Bible Dictionary: "a lump of old dough in a high state of fermentation, which was mixed into the mass of dough prepared for baking....." I love the list of properties
 - i) Its source is from without; (from the previous day's bake)
 - ii) it is secret in its operation; (hidden, looks like the rest of the loaf)
 - iii) it spreads by contact of particle with particle;
 - iv) it is widely diffusive, one particle of leaven being able to change any number of particles of flour; and because
 - v) it does not act like water, moistening a certain amount of flour, but is like a plant, changing the particles it comes in contact with into its own nature, with like propagating power.
 - d) These are the properties to which Jesus alludes in Luke 13:20-21. The Baker has taken all that He put in you, allowed you to season, then hid you in a new lump!!!!
- 2) **Salty salt:** Matt 5:13

- a) You can be salt, but also be useless. Luke 14:34-35
Commitment: Are you sold out?
 - b) Mark 9:50 – The absolute awfulness of sin. Stay salty, sincere and not just going through the motions
- 3) **Light that shines**
- a) Matthew 5:14-16 You have a purpose: He lit you for a reason. It's what you do that shines, not what you say.
 - b) Philippians 2:13-18
 - i) Get delivered from self-absorption and victimization
 - ii) We are not looking for the minimum requirement. We are looking to be transformed into the image of Jesus.
 - iii) We live amid the world, separated by the blood, not the church walls. The world and its prince are terrified of you.
 - iv) You want to stay lit? Hang on to the Word: The Word is
 - (1) Our sword - don't to be constantly at the enemy's mercy. (or needing someone to bail you out) Eph 6:17
 - (2) The source of all faith – don't try to live by your own ideas and strength. The just shall live by faith. Rom 1:17/10:17
 - (3) The source of our inheritance – Acts 20:32. No Word, no inheritance.
 - (4) The Word taps the Divine Nature: 2 Peter 1:2-4. Life not reflecting the nature of God? Get in the Word
 - (5) The seed that brings harvest – no Word, no seed. - nothing to plant. Mk 4:14
 - (6) What enables us to live in the world, but not be overtaken by it. John 17:14-17

Get lit, live bright, feed on His Word.

"For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 1 Peter 1:23- 2:1-3 NLT)"