

Cause and Effect and Four Seasons of Life

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I. Introduction.

A. The speaker's testimony. (Colossians 3)

II. The seasons of life.

A. The spring of life is the period of youth where concentration on planting should be the focus as well as pruning. (Proverbs 20:4, John 15:30)

B. Summer is the time for cultivation where the toughness of maturity mixes with the energy of youth. One is not to slow down during this period.

C. Autumn is the time of the harvest to save souls in which it is too late to do planting. One must work hard to gather in the crops.

D. Winter is a time of dread but there is escaping winter in the life to come. Early decisions will follow so make them in light of this time.

III. Comments on the seasons of life - The seasons will return but not for you.

A. There is no discharge in the spiritual war in the spring. (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

B. There is much to be enjoyed with maturity and strength in the summer.

C. You plant in one season for next season.

IV. Question and answer.

A. Humor is important for the Christian life.

B. For contentment there needs to come a time when a man says he will follow God and pay the price.

V. Cause and effect - seven laws of the harvest.

A. We reap only what is sown.

1. Jesus Christ is the only one who can change what we have sown.

2. God loved the world, and He has salvation for the world.

3. The problems are there, but they do not have to be there for us in Christ. (Psalm 9:17, 2 Chronicles 7:14)

B. We reap the same in kind as we sew.

C. We reap in a different season than we sew.

D. We reap more than we sew.

E. We reap in the same proportion as we sew.

F. We reap the full harvest of the good only when we persevere; however, evil comes on its own. Sluggard-ness leads to destruction.

G. We cannot do anything about last year's harvest, but we can about this year's harvest.

VI. Question and answer: the speaker disciplined his family the same way he disciplined his men.

Application questions

1. How can the seasons of life help one to plan for future fruit?

2. What is the importance of the laws of cause and effect?

3. How will you change what you are doing now to produce what you want later? Be specific.
