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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by [james](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2015 17:08:30 GMT

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Seasons and Times...

The writer of Ecclesiastes writes in chapter three:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

verse four says:

"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

In reading Ezra and Nehemiah we see a nation [Israel] who has been dispersed and scattered, brought into captivity and bondage; then we see them allowed to return to Judah and Jerusalem to rebuild and restore the city walls and the Temple of The Lord. They become aware that they have sinned against God in taking strange wives and not worshipping God in the way He had instructed through Moses. They repented in putting away the strange wives and returned unto The Lord in worship through burnt offerings and keeping of the feasts, they began once more to pray and fast, they wept and mourned over their sins.[repent]

Later in Nehemiah 8:9-10 they were going to have a feast, the people are told by Ezra and Nehemiah that they were celebrating The Lord and His day of feast, to be joyful.

"And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto The Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of The Lord is your strength."

Turning from sin is essential in our relationship with God; mourning, weeping, praying, fasting, and seeking mercy is what God responds to. He promises to forgive and restore us when we trust in His Mercy and Grace [Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary/shed blood/atonement]. That repentance and restoration frees us to joyfully walk in His strength, resting in His promise and faithfulness.

There are many examples throughout The Bible of men sinning against God and turning away from Him in every way imaginable. Yet, there are equally as many examples of His Mercy and Grace given men then they repent and turn back unto Him. What a time of joy when we receive

forgiveness and restoration into fellowship, knowing full well we don't deserve it one iota.

Oh, the Grace and Mercy of God.....Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

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