

Title: Celebrate Great Moments
Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4, 11-13
Date: March 29, 2015
Place: DCOG
Theme: Good to Great

YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE1nYMg-jU4> – Bill Mazerowski

YouTube Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hSNO_PhSnI – Roger Maris
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If you are a sports enthusiast or a fan of American baseball, these are some of our finest moments. They are the moments of intense celebration.

Some two thousand years ago, there was another great moment in life-changing history. The city of Jerusalem would never be the same. The Savior of the world, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ was entering into Jerusalem and the people went crazy.

They believed they had a right to celebrate. And even though they didn't fully understand, they needed to celebrate. If they had not, well then, the rocks would cry out.

You see, God intends for us to experience those moments of celebration.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4, 11-13

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

[4] a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

[11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. [12] I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. [13] That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil--this is the gift of God.

1. There is a season for everything.

What God has done should be celebrated. Work, play, relationships, family, new birth in Christ, the Church,

2. Our lives are filled with seasons of our journey.

*We understand seasons, winter, spring, summer and fall.

We live in a community that understands cultivation, planting, and ultimately harvesting.

Our kids understand seasons. There's football, baseball, basketball, track, volleyball, wrestling, music, art, drama and more. Everything in its season.

Our businesses understand seasons. The ice cream stores open in season. The fireworks store opens in season. Well, even the schools are open for a season.

3. I admit that we in the Church of God have a little trouble with the "time to dance." It shouldn't be so hard for us. The author is telling us that there is a time for joy.

*Deb and I have lived throughout the south and Midwest. From the rolling hills of Ohio to the Gulf Coast of Texas, from the plains of Kansas to the lakes along the Chattahoochee River, and from the Ozarks to the mountains of the Allegheny National Forest. Which is more beautiful? Is it the hill country of south-central Texas or the Florida beaches? One thing that I am sure of, the beauty of each of these locations, though different, brings an element of joy into our lives.

4. Some struggle with accepting beauty because they fail to fathom the love of God that envelopes them from birth to death.
- A young family's "Dad" is killed in a bicycle accident.
 - A husband walks away from his wife and children.
 - The main bread-winner is unfairly terminated.
 - Sickness, disease, and cancer strikes with such impunity and speed.

Even in the midst of our tragedies, we have seen God's hand at work.

- Though "Dad" is not forgotten, families learn to function, turning grief into joy.
- Families find love, support, and care from other sources.
- New and different opportunities are part of God's overall plan.
- Though sickness brings hurt, disappointment, and often financial burden, at the same time, we discover that God has his hand upon us, and in the "upper story", we find his companionship and love.

*It is almost like we have to apologize if we start to feel joy. We act like being miserable is our badge to wear. Now, I understand that there are those seasons of grief and hurt, but I also believe that there are seasons for celebration.

My joy matters to God. Why?

1. It reminds us of God's goodness.
2. It sustains us in adversity.
3. It honors God as the source of joy.
4. It connects our hearts to those we love.
5. God uses the joy of great moments to renew us.

Let's remember:

1. Last year we took a special offering to buy a bus – we bought two of them. - Celebrate!
2. It was at the hospital where a doctor came to Kathy Strickler and told that there was nothing more they could do for Rex. – He’s here. - Celebrate!
3. In 2010, I came to the point where I had difficulty walking at all. Thanks to God’s people and with their help, I was able to get two new knees. (Can’t play basketball, but I can walk) - Celebrate!
4. In 2001 we all joined in prayer praying for two newborns that were born early and thus in precarious health. Today, Luke and Zoe are a special part of our congregation. - Celebrate!

*My brother, Jeff, is a huge hockey fan. He has seasons’ tickets to watch pro hockey. He not only has seen playoff games but he gone to airports to welcome the champions home.

One thing I have seen is players after winning the Stanley Cup, lifting the huge trophy over the heads and skating around the arena with the crowds cheering in exultation. They know how to celebrate.

Conclusion: Jesus tells us...

John 12:32

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

We are told to be happy and “do good.” How about it? Can we lift up Christ and skate around the community celebrating the great victory that comes in Jesus?

Are you okay with a little celebration?

YouTube Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T0drh8i4Tw> – Bobby Thompson

Do you want to move from good to great in God's eyes?
How about it? Can we show a little enthusiasm for Jesus?