

“All-Season Payoffs”

By Sylvan A. Lashley

What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36.

This cross-country blast of wintry weather powered down tons of snow, ice and frost over a wide area, even in sunny states. It's surely a season of weather. But thank God, another season is coming and then another. The frigid cold and the falling snow reminded that life is full of seasons, a season for this and a season for that. As it is in seasons of weather, so is it in the seasons of life—they come and go. Yet, there is one consistent theme that runs through the seasons which gives us courage, that big payoff that we have to cash in, not just some mere lottery ticket standing out there, depending on the whims of chance. It surely pays to serve Jesus whether in good times or bad times, whether in life's frigid clime or wintry rain, whether in bright summer sunshine, or chirping spring, whether in the fall of autumn or in furious storm. It just pays! All we have to do is to wait and cash in, for whatever season we are in, there is a payoff at the end, only if we just patiently wait.

Peter in Matthew 19:27-30, the Season of Sacrifice: “Then answered Peter and said unto him, ‘Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee: what shall we have therefore’”? Jesus responds: you will sit in the throne of my glory, sit on the twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel, receive a hundredfold and inherit everlasting life. What a payoff, for all seasons!

David in Psalms 37:1-4, the Season of Evil-Doers: “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity...trust in the Lord and do good”. You will dwell in the land and you will receive the desires of your heart. What a payoff, for all seasons.

Jeremiah 17:7-8, the Season of Trust: “Blessed is the man that trusts in the lord...he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water...” The heat or drought will not bother, and fruit shall still come forth. What a payoff for all seasons!

Malachi 3:13-18, Season of Opposition: “Your words have been stout against me...You have said it is vain to serve God and what profit it is that we have his ordinances... then they that feared the Lord spoke and the Lord listened and said, ‘And they shall be mine says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels’”. What a payoff for all seasons!

Today, I'd like to think that the thrust and pull of the season produce gold and silver in the fires of adversity, so whatever your season or time or experience, there is a big payoff at the end. Let us listen to the Oakwood University Aeolians from Huntsville, Alabama in **“It Pays to Serve Jesus”**.
<https://youtu.be/hnTvwvyi2Tc>

