

Chalkboard

By

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From time to time I reflect on the seasons. I think that is because Regenia loves springtime so much. She likes spring flowers and enjoys watching the trees begin to bud and the grass begin to turn green. Maybe it is the nesting instinct that drives her in that direction.

Reflecting on the seasons gave me pause once to think about the phases of life that people go through. Being a rows and columns sort of a guy, I even designed my own “seasons of life” analogy.

The spring of life in my chart is from birth to 20 years of age. It is the time when many, like spring calves, kick up their heels and just enjoy being alive. Childhood, the teenage years, and young adulthood all fall within the springtime of life.

Summer runs from age 21 to 40. It is a time of career building, family building, educational preparation for the work place, and so forth. Everything is a wonderful challenge and the world is an open door for those who would grasp the hand of opportunity. The sun is bright and the days are long.

The cool winds of autumn blow through the years from 41 to 60. Like nature, it is a time to harvest the wisdom gained through the skinned knees of springtime and the calluses of summer. It is a peak time to do your best work and to pass on anything you have learned on to others in both your personal and professional lives. There is glory to be found in the children of your children.

Winter’s chill and the breath taking beauty of a resplendent snowfall crown the years of 61 to 80. If there is to be a retirement, it most often falls here. Winter is a time to stay warm by the fire and to enjoy all the joys that could not be found in the earlier months. It is a time to be free from so many demands of the earlier season. The crops are in and the sky is dark blue. And, as the case may be, year 81 starts over the cycle again.

Pretty naïve, huh? Rose-colored glasses and pie in the sky? Probably, but I would that it be that way. I would that every child be happy, be loved, and go to bed with a full stomach. I would that every family stay intact, that every person succeed in his or her own way, that every retirement account be fat, that every elder one be respected and honored, and that spring would come twice in each person’s life.

Sorry, for the philosophic mutterings. Blame it on Regenia’s love for

spring and the Graduating Classes of 1993 to 2008, those who range from late spring or to late summer.

I am concerned sometimes about the world, our country, and the direction that society seems to be moving. I worry sometimes about the life ahead for those we graduate and turn loose. I am bothered by thoughts that maybe we, as a school, could have done a better job preparing our students for the seasons of their lives.

Like you- parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and such- we at Gentry Public Schools want the best for your children in each season of their life. . I hope that we have done our best.

Someone else said it first and said it better than I ever could. Said it before Peter, Paul and Mary sung the words. So, if I have used this quote before in some previous Chalkboard just know that I like it.

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

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

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

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace”.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)