

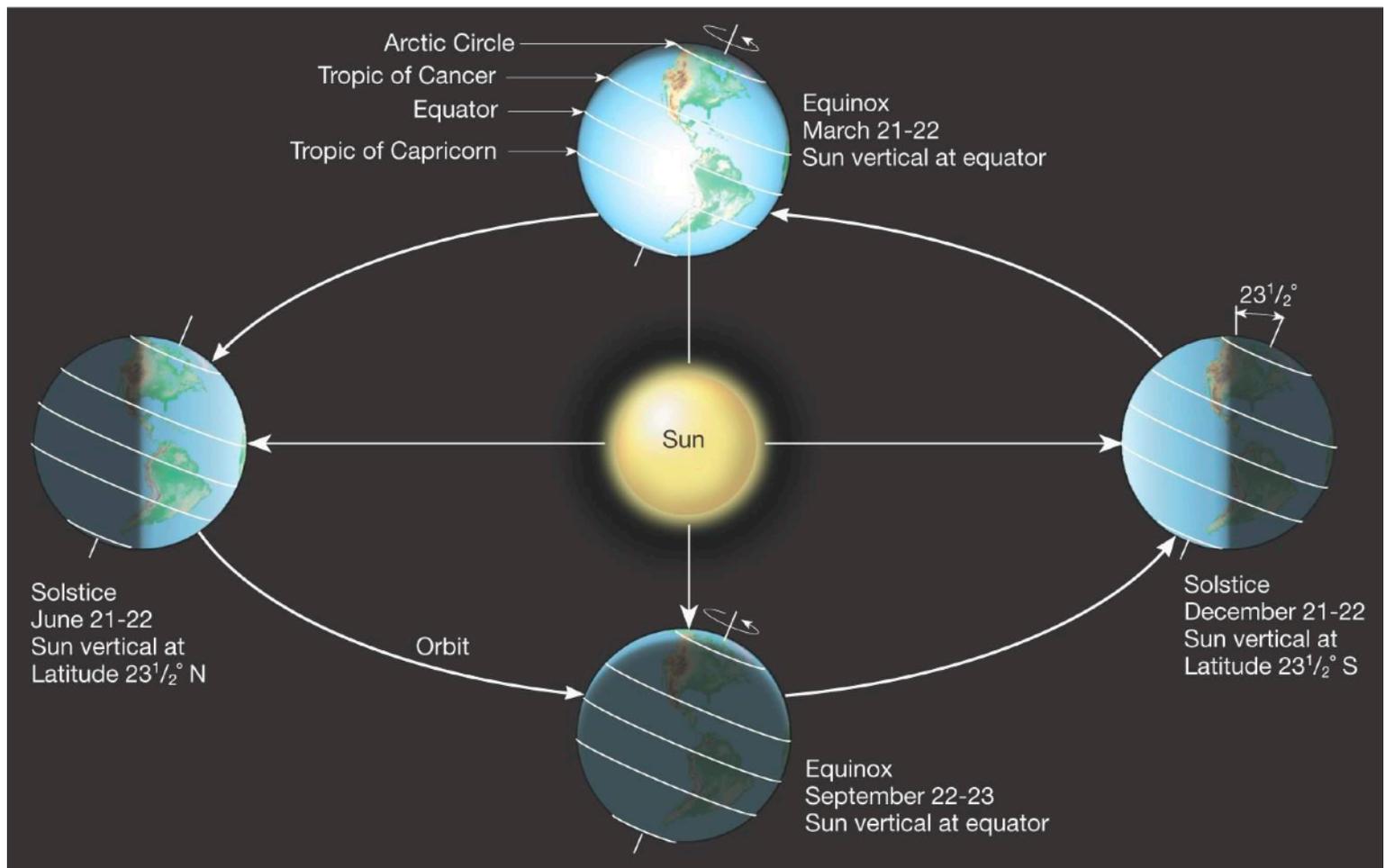
Pastor Brian's  
Midweek Message  
September 21, 2022

**SEASONS CHANGE**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

Today is a BIG day, astronomically speaking. Some think that it's a BIG day meteorologically, but really, not so much. Today will mark the beginning of the autumn, fall, season. That's right, at exactly 9:04pm Eastern Daylight Time this evening the Autumnal Equinox will occur. This is indeed a very BIG deal, so make your party plans accordingly.

For but a brief moment, the direct rays of the sun's light (actually its entire radiative spectrum) will pass directly over the equator heading southbound out of the Northern Hemisphere and into the Southern.



That word "Equinox", broken in two, means "equal (equi) night (nox)"...as the length of the night is equal to the length of the day, 12 hours apiece. So, at this very point in time all of the leaves on the trees in turn colors and fall off, and the temperatures drop a good 30 degrees, right? Obviously not. This phenomenon has no direct correlation to the weather, but rather signals that a cooling trend will soon be on the way as the amount of heat being received from the sun each day will be rapidly diminishing over the next few weeks and months. I was checking the weather up in northern Wisconsin and across southern Canada this morning and that cooling is already well under way, even though technically we are still in the last hours of summer.

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The seasons of our lives change as well, and I think all of us are well aware of that. Most of us here at TLC would likely consider ourselves to be in the autumn of our lives. We're thinking about and acting on "buttoning up" all that needs to be done prior to winter setting in, and we look forward to another springtime coming. That coming spring will be much more glorious and awesome than the one that we experienced early in life as it will be an eternal springtime in heaven, with sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings more intense than anything that we've experienced in this world and time, more than anything we can imagine.

King Solomon, in his sermon that we call "Ecclesiastes" speaks of the various seasons (times) of our lives. First and foremost, he cites our time to be born and our time to die. Everything else follows from that. For us who are God's elect, redeemed in the blood of His Son Jesus Christ, our time to die is our time to be born once more, born into heaven's eternal glory, peace, joy, and bliss. The winter's nap of our mortal bodies will not be a nap of our soul and spirit. The exact time of our mortal death will be the exact time of our eternal birthday, into that place where time will not even exist. There will be one season...no solstices or equinoxes...simply a springtime that will last of ever. And if time does not exist that will mean that our resurrected immortal body will be ready to go on arrival as well. I like to describe the situation in heaven (as if I know all that much about it) as everything happening all at once forever. That's the way God sees things. Past, present, and future are all one to him. So it will be for us.

So, let's get to work on buttoning up whatever needs buttoning up, especially that of pointing our families and other loved ones, and our neighbors and friends to Christ, and loving everyone that God brings across our path as ourselves. At the same time let us rejoice in looking forward to that day when our eternal spring springs forth, and we meet our Savior Jesus face to face forever.