



The Good News

November 25th, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 47

It's About Time

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As human beings, we are ruled by time. Man lives, on average, about 70 years. We count our years out by 365 days, separated by 12 months of, on average, 30 days. These days are divided into 24 hours, with each hour consisting of 60 minutes. Each minute has 60 seconds, with each second containing 1,000 milliseconds. The root of these measurements can be found in how often the earth revolves on its axis, around the sun, and how often the moon revolves around the earth. Mankind has been “keeping time” for thousands of years. Some humans are so afraid of old age and death that they attempt to cheat time of its inevitable claim over our bodies by useless surgeries, miracle drugs, and cultural legends of fountains of youth. Amid all of this in our world, the Christian understands more than so many of the learned-but-unlearned within our society. Let us examine three things that the Christian understands about time:

Time is nothing to God: In **II Peter 3:8**, Peter says “*But beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*” In the context, Peter is dealing with scoffers who say that God will not be fulfilling His promise to come back and redeem those who are faithful and bring judgment upon those who are not. “*All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation,*” they say, yet Peter reminds the Christians, and us, that God is not ruled by man’s sense of time. When God told Moses in **Ex. 3:14** “*I AM that I AM*”, He was telling Moses that “I who EXIST, EXISTS”. Time has no dominion over God. While God is certainly aware of the passage of time among us, time fits into what He has ordained. This helps us to understand that God will fulfill His promises and that He is in control.

Within our lives, there is a time for everything: In **Ecclesiastes 3:2-8**, we are given a list of all the things in life for which there is a “time”, preceded by this statement from Solomon: “*To everything there*

is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” The younger we are, the quicker we want time to pass. We always have to wait until we’re older; then once we are older, we constantly want time to slow down. Solomon helps us to understand that in life there is a time for all things. This helps us to understand that we have to take the sorrow with the joy in life, the bad with the good. This also helps us to understand that we do not always have to get everything at once, but that all things will come in their own time. We sometimes feel like if we can’t have it all at once, then we can’t have it at all. Patience is the unspoken virtue within this “list” from Solomon.

We must make the most of our time because our time is short: In **Eph. 5:15-16**, Paul says “*See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*” In **Col. 4:5** Paul says “*Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*” Paul encourages the saints to be aware of what is around them, what situations they are in and conduct themselves wisely, making the most of every moment. The days being evil is a reference to the fact that no one but God knows what each day holds for us...it may just be another of hundreds more or it may be our last. In **Jas. 4:15**, James reminds us that our life is like “*a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*” We must make the most of the time we have to convince others of the truth of the Gospel while we have the opportunity.

In **Rom. 13:11**, Paul writes “*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awaken out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*” As human beings, our bodies are under constant wear and tear. Because of the wear and tear of time, our heart may someday simply stop working. But are we taking care of our spiritual body now? Are we spiritually awake today? If not, redeem the time you have left and be obedient to God.