

The Time Machine Part I

I very seldom write a sermon and put it in the rotation concerning a specific topic because it helps me avoid speaking to something involving a specific person or a small group, but this topic is different because it is one that affects all of us and it is urgent.

Each year in Nov. and Dec. we head into a very stressful and busy time of the year. The holiday season. When it get here are you always ready for it?

I heard a PBS special not long ago, with the Irish singer, Daniel O'Donnell and one of the songs he sang struck a chord with me, It was called Only This Moment is Mine. I want to use that thought as a theme for the next couple weeks in this two part sermon on time

Thought: Someone said, Time is a little chunk of eternity that God has given us.

Of that little chunk of eternity we find in reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-7 that when that chunk is used properly, there is time for everything God wants us to do. Hear the word of God.

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven--

2 A time to give birth, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted.

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build up.

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

5 A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be silent, and a time to speak.

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; A time for war, and a time for peace.

So Solomon tells us that there is time, a right time for everything. So there is a proper time for our focus on the issue of time management itself, correct?

Thought: One of the ways I know that we desperately need a message on time management for Christians is because I hear a recurring theme coming from the lips of so many of them.

It is, I don't have time. So the question becomes, do we really not have the time or, has the enemy distorted our view of what God wants for us in light of eternity and his word.

I would suggest that we have enough time, but the enemy has done some major distortion of God's plan and many have unwittingly bought into it.

Since we have enough time for what the Lord wants, we of necessity move on to another passage of Scripture that we must tackle.

Ephesians 5:16 says *making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*

The NLT says *Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.*

The Message reads *Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!*

It is a fact that we are living in desperate times. People trying desperately to fit everything into their increasingly hectic lives. I hear folks saying, I just seem to run myself silly and never have enough time to get everything done that I need to.

Is that conclusion true however, if the scripture tells us that we have a time for everything or, have we gotten confused in the process and spend too much time on some good things and not enough on others that are good but not necessarily right?

I would say that the time has come for us to inventory our time management decisions in light of eternity because it is **only in time**, that we can **deal with time**. Someone aptly noted that, eternity will reveal whether we have made the right use of time, in time, and that is true? How are you doing in the area of time? Got enough of it? Are you using it efficiently? Are your decisions about time made with eternity in mind? Would you like to make some changes but don't know how? Would like some suggestions as to how to make some changes? If this is you lets notice first,

I. Some facts about time

A. We have all the time we are ever going to get.

Note this explanation of it from the observation of a very wise person: *Every morning you are handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world that you get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. What will you do with this priceless treasure? Remember, you must use it, as it is given only once. Once wasted you cannot get it back.*

In other words, when you kill time, there is no resurrection. Killing time does not mean just sitting around doing nothing. Instead, think about it like this. Abuse and Misuse also kills doesn't it? Just as child abuse and misuse can kill a child the same can happen with time

B. We all have the same amount of time.

Your time pie and my time pie are the same in weight and diameter. We all have 168 hours a week. This is explained this way: Our days are identical suitcases - all the same size - but some people can pack more into them than others. This shows us that it is not that anyone has more time than someone else, but it is a matter of how each person manages that time.

C. We are all individually accountable for our time management

D. We all seem to have time for what we want

E. Time is short

I John 2:18 is a sobering verse *Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.*

Written about 70-90 AD and the words are the last hour even back then. The question is, if time was short enough to be the last hour back then, then how short is it today? After a couple thousand years I would suggest that it is **Shorter than we think isn't it?**

The present time we live in also testifies that time is short. Lets read a couple portions of Scripture and as you read, think if you see any of this in our world today.

Matthew 24:5-13 *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.*

6 *"And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.*

7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.*

8 *"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.*

9 *"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.*

10 *"And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.*

11 *"And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.*

12 *"And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.*

13 *"But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.*

I Timothy 4:1-3 *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*
2 *by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,*
3 *men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*

II Timothy 3:1-7 *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*
2 *For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,*
3 *unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,*
4 *treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;*
5 *holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.*
6 *For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,*
7 *always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Question: Are we living in a time such as this? I believe we are as never before.

Now some will say it has been this way for a long time and it is still going so let's not worry about it. Hear the word of the Lord to you if this is how you are thinking I Thessalonians 5:3-6 *While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

4 *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief;*
5 *for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;*
6 *so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*

There is one final fact about time and that is

F. Today is the acceptable time for salvation

II Corinthians 6:2 *for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU"; behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"--*

Life's most important question is, have you taken **time** to meet Jesus? If not please don't waste any more time and do it today. Read these next few lines, understand what

they are saying and do what they ask you to do and you will find that you have indeed used time to your eternal advantage.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)

Well time is away from us for today. It seems like it took a lot of time just to get a framework in place so we can understand it better. Next week I want to finish by looking at: How we waste time, the proper use of time, difficult questions about our time consumption, and some suggestions for how to better invest this golden opportunity we are given each morning.

Where are you my friend concerning this thing called time? Do you control your time, or do time's circumstances control your moments?