

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Time”

By Brian Meade

Every New Year’s Eve, people gather in New York to watch the ball drop that ushers in another new year. 2020 was no different! Many celebrated as we have been blessed with another start over in the calendar year of life!

Many will make resolutions to do things differently from the previous year. They wish to change things and “turn over new leafs” in efforts to improve certain parts of their lives for the better.

All of this brings one subject to the forefront in our thinking, and that is the subject of time. God has a lot to say— to you and I in the Scriptures— about this important subject.

Let’s begin with Solomon’s words in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, as he speaks to every cycle and season of our life here....

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven— A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear 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 throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.”

This is not just poetic language, but it speaks volumes about our existence here on planet earth! It defines our lives in so many ways! And the more we have been blessed with time here, the better able we are to appreciate these inspired words from Solomon.

The Scriptures tell us that...

I. Time Begins With God.

The Bible teaches us that, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”* (Genesis 1:1-2) The book of Genesis is the book of man’s origin, “In the beginning.” Our time here on earth began long before we (in 2020) were ever born. But we owe our entire existence to a loving Creator, who designed us and everything we see around us too! (Colossians 1:16)

In Genesis chapter one, we see the beginning of light, darkness, waters, dry lands, plant life, animal life, creeping things, and the crown of God’s creation— man; all in six literal days of creation! Each day had an evening and a morning to them (verses 5,8,13,19,23, & 31), and God rested on the seventh day. We still base our week on seven days today. We got that from God, in the beginning.

God said in Genesis 1:14-15, *“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.”*

The reason why we can celebrate is a new year— because time begins with God!

II. Time Will End With God.



Not only does time begin with God, but it will one day end with God too! Jesus speaks of Himself, when He says in Revelation 1:8, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* The alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and the omega is the last. Jesus is saying that He is our beginning and our end (of our time on planet earth) on the final Day of Judgment!

Ever since the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, we have been in the “last days” (Acts 2:17; 2 Timothy 3:1; Hebrews 2:1; 2 Peter 3:3) or dispensation of time on planet earth. God will change our dwelling place and basically our whole new existence at the Judgment Day of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). We will not cease to exist, but life will forever change— as time changes over to eternity!

Paul speaks of this change in 1 Corinthians 15:24-26, *“then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.”*

When Jesus comes, the last enemy of mankind, death will be abolished in the resurrection of all the dead.

Also Peter tells us of that great and final day in 2 Peter 3:10-12, *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!”*

After that day, we will forevermore be with God! (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

III. Time Is Limited.

The Bible tells us that God is NOT limited by time in any way, *“But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”* (2 Peter 3:8) Time will not prevent God’s promise to destroy the earth (2 Peter 3:9-10) and bring in eternity.

God does Not grow old and run out of time— but we do! This defines man’s existence here on the earth as “a time to be born, and a time to die.” (Eccl. 3:2)

Job describes our life here in Job 14:1, *“Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.”* Several passages of Scripture show us the brevity of life.

James illustrates just how brief our life here is, when he says, *“whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* (James 4:14)

Moses, who wrote Psalm 90, contrasts man’s brevity and God’s eternal nature, *“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”* Generations of men come and go on the earth, but God remains everlasting! He goes on to tell us in verse 10, *“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

It is a thought we don’t like to think about, but it can be a matter of arithmetic to see the limited time we have on the earth. Seventy or eighty years is not a long time at all compared to eternity, that’s why he says in verse 12, *“So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*

IV. Time Can Be Wasted.

Because time is limited to each one of us, and thus extremely valuable, and the most precious resource we have— we should NOT waste it! But do we use it wisely as we should? How can we utterly waste our time here?

Many waste precious years in service to selfish, sinful pleasures! Peter speaks of the Gentiles past life in sin, in precisely this way, *“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”* (1 Peter 4:3-4)

Peter tells them that they spent enough time doing sinful things that are a complete waste of time. They do not produce anything productive to us spiritually at all! In fact, they do more damage and destruction to our lives than anything! And in the Day of Judgment, many will see how futile a life given over to sin actually was, but then it will be too late... There will be no opportunity to repent.

V. Time Can Be Redeemed.

But the good news of the gospel is that we can redeem the time through service to the Lord Jesus Christ! Paul says in Ephesians 5:15-16, *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”* When we prepare for eternity, it is making the most of our time!

VI. The Time Of Your Salvation Is Now!

Notice in 2 Corinthians 6:2, For He says: *“In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

Yesterday’s opportunities are gone and tomorrow’s opportunities are not available— the time to obey is NOW!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom), Mollie Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Why Some Fail To Understand The Scriptures"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)
Lesson 10, Page #56, Question #1
Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Matthew 6:22-23
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Sam Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Our Spiritual Eyesight In 20/20"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 8th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)
Lesson 7, Page #32, Question #1
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.