

# *Time*

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Revelation 10:5-6 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

- I. Time is what God designed to keep us in our place.
  - A. Time is the fence which keeps us confined.
  - B. Time is the chain which keeps us from escaping – our leash.
  - C. Time is the prison from which we cannot escape here on earth.
  - D. We watch the clock.
  - E. We race the clock – try to beat the clock.
  - F. We start and are stopped by the clock.
  - G. We lose time.
  - H. We try to save time.
  - I. We want it to pass slower.
  - J. We want it to pass faster.
  - K. We want to make it go backward or forward.
  - L. But it marches on and keeps a steady pace regardless of our urgency or reluctance, regardless of our need or our pain.
  - M. Our life is measured by time - the dash between the years.

I know of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend,  
He referred to the dates on his tombstone, from the beginning to the end.  
He noted that first came his date of birth and spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that he spent alive on earth,  
And now only those who loved him know what that little line was worth.  
For it matters not how much we owned – the cars, the house, the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love – and how we spend our dash.

....

So when your eulogy is being read, your life's actions to rehash,  
Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

- N. Everything we do is reckoned by time and we cannot even manage our life here except according to time.
- O. We all know that our time is limited, it is only a certain number of days, but we just don't know how many.

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

- 1. So even though we are controlled by time in every aspect of our lives we try to ignore it on this point and pretend that it doesn't exist.

II. Time is our enemy.

“...it came to pass.” 456 times in the Bible

- A. Time diminishes us concerning everything connected with this earthly existence.
- B. The passing of time takes from us those we love.
- C. The passing of time takes from us our youth and our strength.
- D. Time takes our health from us.
- E. Time increases our sorrows.
  1. This is very obvious by looking at pictures of people when they were young and then look at them when they are old.
  2. The brightness and smile are usually gone and replaced with a solemn look and a cautious attitude.
- F. Time diminishes us in every way – just like the flower of the field.

III. The soul of man is designed to live in a realm where time doesn't exist.

- A. The evidence that this is true is found in the experience of every person.
- B. There is something in our soul that feels sadness, that recoils, rejects, and refuses to accept what time forces upon us.
  1. When we see people that we haven't seen in years and they have aged.
  2. When we see our children grow up and start seeing the effect of time on them.
  3. When we look at our spouse we automatically look past what time has done and see in our mind the young bride or husband that we started with.
  4. Nostalgia and the obsession with antiques and old stuff are evidence that time has robbed us of things and circumstances that we think were better than what we have now.

IV. Sin has made time our enemy and our destroyer, but salvation can turn time into a means of spiritual gain.

**Ephesians 5:15-16** See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- A. To redeem means to “buy up,” or to “rescue from loss.”
- B. We can treat time as an asset or as something we can use and manage instead of just pretending it isn't happening.
- C. It can be turned into our servant and our benefactor rather than something that controls us and does what it wants to with us.
- D. Time heals wounds; time is truth's best friend; time brings us closer each day to our eternal reward.
- E. All earthly things and our earthly body are subject to time and its effects, but our soul is not, because our soul is eternal.
- F. This is why Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

- G. Don't be a fool while you are young and live as if time doesn't matter.
  1. Remind yourself often that time is working on you, too, and you are headed for the same place where you see all these “old” people at now.
  2. Remind yourself often that your days are numbered and each one that passes is one less that you have to live.
  3. Think of time as money in your checking account, or gas in your tank.
    - a) It is continually being used up, but there is no more being put in.

**1 Peter 1:17** And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: