

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

We are captives of a four-letter word: "TIME". We are born in TIME and we die in TIME. We are in a stream called TIME which flows out of the infinite future through the focal point of the present and out into the past. There is never a TIME when we are not slaves to TIME until we run out of TIME! A fish swims with its mouth open and the water flows into its mouth and out through its gills. It cannot store up the water but only filter and use it. So it is with mankind and TIME.

There are 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours and 525,600 minutes in each year. We cannot hoard it up, buy, borrow or beg more of it. And the most solemn thing about TIME is that we must give account to God as to how we use it. You can have the TIME OF YOUR LIFE if you use it for God!

An anonymous poet wrote:

"I have only just a minute
Just sixty seconds in it;
Forced upon me – can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give account if I abuse it;
Just a tiny little minute
But eternity is in it."

In II Kings 20:1-6 we read of King Hezekiah whose time ran out. God said, "Set your house in order for you shall die and not live." Then Hezekiah pled with God to extend his life and God gave him 15 more years. Ask King Hezekiah whether time is sacred or not and he would answer emphatically in the affirmative!

British Queen Elizabeth I, cried when near death, "All my possessions for a moment of time." Let us not wait until our death bed to correctly appraise time, to realize the sacredness of time.

"Every day is a magic chest,
The gift of time is in it.
So guard it well and do not lose
One golden, sacred minute."

James, writing about the brevity of time says, "You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." (James 4:14) The stream of time runs swiftly; "Time and tide wait for no man."

Someone put it this way:

"When, as a child, I laughed and wept, time crept;
When, as a youth, I dreamed and talked, time walked;
When I became a full grown man, time ran;
And later, as I older grew, time flew;
Soon I shall find, while traveling on, time gone."

The inescapable fact of life is this: "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away." (Psalm 90:10) Time is the stuff of which life consists! Look closely at your watch or clock. With every tick life is passing away. There it goes – gone forever – no recalling that last tick of time! That is sobering, isn't it?

The following is what some of the better known writers have had to say about time as it relates to life:

- Emerson said, "Whoever loses a day loses life."
- Lord Bacon said, "To use time is to use life."
- Dr. Otis Young said, "Time wasted is mere existence; used properly is life."
- Benjamin Franklin said, "Time is what life is made of."

We often hear it said, "I don't have time." That is the most lame excuse you can give for being irresponsible! That flies in the face of what we read in the Book of Ecclesiastes:

TIME

"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." (Eccles.3:2-8)

Notice that this compendium on time does not say, "a time to waste"! To waste time is to waste life. Time is sacred because it is the gift of God. It has been said, "You cannot kill time without injuring eternity". That is why we must conscientiously appropriate time for it is life!

Illust. In Kensington Gardens, one of London, England's most beautiful spots, is an elevated clock with four sides – a clock on each side. One faces north, one south, one east and one west. Underneath each clock face is carved in large letters, "TIME FLIES".

Each tick of time brings us closer to the day when we shall stand before our Lord and give an account of our usage of the time He gave us. What are you doing with the time God is parceling out to you?

"So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom."
 (Psalm 90:12)

And you will have the time of your life!

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