

“THE VALUE OF TIME”
II Kings 20:1-6

British Queen Elizabeth I cried when near death, “All my possessions for a moment of time.” In II Kings 20 we read of King Hezekiah whose time had also run out. God said, “Set your house in order for you shall die and not live.” Ask the Queen and the King whether time is a valuable commodity or not and they would answer emphatically in the affirmative!

How valuable is time to you? We have watches on our persons; clocks in our homes, cars and on our streets and in public squares; there are seminars on “Time Management”; employees punch the “time clock” when they start their work day and when they end it. We are time conscious but do we correctly value time? If we are to correctly appraise the value of time, we must take into account:

A. The Sacredness Of Time.

Time is sacred because it is the gift of God. I

“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.”

“You cannot kill time without injuring eternity”. If we are going to correctly value time we must not only realize the sacredness of time but we must also be aware of:

B. The Shortness Of Time.

The Apostle Paul declares, “But this I say, brethren, the time is short.” (I Cor. 7:29) James 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) And the Psalmist goes on to say, “So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

Illust. My Grandmother had a plaque on her wall reminding her of the brevity of time. The words on it were:

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past;

Only what's done for Christ will last."

We must value time in view of its sacredness and its shortness but we must also value time in view of the:

C. The Setting Of Time.

We are exhorted to "*redeem the time because the days are evil.*" (Eph. 5:15-16) Evil Times are the setting in which we utilize time. And Paul writes to Timothy "*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*" (II Tim.3:1)

The fact that we live in evil and difficult times should make us more aware of the value of time and make us more conscious of how we manage our time. We live in a dark world and it is getting darker all the time. Jesus said we are "the light of the world" and if we are ever going to penetrate the darkness, now is the time to "redeem" – to buy up our opportunities to shine for the Savior.

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."

Illust. I have stood at the bedside of dying friends. On occasion I have heard the doctor or nurse say, "He/she doesn't have much time left." None of us knows how much time we have left! So, let us place the right value on time and follow Jesus' example when He said, "I must be about my Father's business." (Luke 2:49)

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