

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 10, Issue 4

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Jan. 25, 2009

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Have You Checked Your Time?

by Dillard Thurman

When the parking meter reads, EXPIRED, your time is gone, and all your arguing and bickering won't change a thing! You can't put one minute back on the meter! Nor can you turn back the clock, nor rewind the day that is gone! Maybe this can emphasize the fleeting nature of TIME and make us more conscious of its true worth. It is said that he who kills his fellow man is guilty of murder; but he who kills TIME commits suicide! *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Psa. 90:12). With the Psalmist, our prayer should be: *“Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am”* (Psa. 39:4). If only we could see the end of life and what awaits us there, TIME might be easier for us to define. The brevity of life and its swift ebbing away, confronts and startles us: *“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”* (Jas. 4:14). How sad that multitudes “pass time” as the count-down to eternity moves exorably on; for there are no brakes that can slow the progress of TIME.

TIME is a most precious commodity which only God can give. *“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5:15). Paul warned of this yet again: *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light”* (Rom. 13:11-13). The Christian must judiciously use every waking moment in service to the Master! We have so much to do and so little time in which to work! *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”* (Col. 4:5-6). It was our Lord who said: *“Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves”* (Matt. 10:16). We must wisely use our time that we may always properly answer to our Lord, for that is why He has allotted us our TIME!

How often have you heard, “If I could just live my life over!” But God doesn't pass out “rain checks” for wasted opportunities. Solomon wisely cautioned, *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”* (Eccl. 12:1). Youth looks on life in exuberance and sees only unlimited days and vast opportunities before him. But the wise man still warns, *“Rejoice, O young man in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth and walk in the ways of thy heart and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment”* (Eccl. 11:9). Never become so infatuated with TIME that you think it is “yours to keep”. Whether you

are young or old, have you checked your time lately? Felix didn't check his time when he turned away, saying, *"Go thy way for this time; when I have a more convenient season, I will call for thee"* (Acts 24:25). You begin there and check to see where he found that convenient time! *"For he saith...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"* (II Cor. 6:2). Remember they were called the five foolish virgins because they did not act in the accepted time and therefore were excluded from the marriage feast (Matt. 25). The fullness of the lesson is capsuled in the closing verse: *"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the son of man cometh"* (Matt. 25:13). Have you checked your time lately?

It is said, Yesterday is a canceled check; Tomorrow is a promissory note; Today is the only wealth you have; therefore, spend it wisely!



The Danger of Delay

by Joe R. Barnett

A monk once took a vow that he would not speak for 50 years. At the end of that time he attempted to speak, but his voice was completely gone.

In the East, fakirs, holding their hands and feet immobile for long periods, find their joints refuse to move and their muscles are atrophied.

Anything we refuse to use eventually becomes useless. This is true with an arm, an eye...even a conscience.

Those who neglect the needs of their souls are risking coming to the point where the conscience is seared and they cannot accept salvation. The longer they remain silent when God calls, the harder it is to respond. The longer they refuse His grace the more crippled in spirit they become.

Long ago Isaiah advised, *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near"* (Isaiah 55:6). When the conscience is tender, God is easily found. But as time passes, He seems farther and farther away. There are opportune moments when everything seems to respond to His call. If these moments are rejected the time comes when we lose the capacity to respond to Him.

This is why so many of those who respond to Christ's invitation are young in years. It isn't that those who are older have lesser needs, but that they have lost the capacity to say "yes" to Him.

It's a terrible thing to trifle with your soul. The time may come when you will *"grope at noonday as in the night"* (Job 5:14).

There is none so blind as he who refuses to see.

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16