

A Time For Everything

Introduction. Time is the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future regarded as a whole. Because it's one of the most basic elements of existence, the subject of time is discussed extensively in the Bible. Time is something with which we must all contend. We have to use it for God's honor and glory.

I. Time In The Life Of A Christian

- A. The time of a man's life is limited (Job 14:1; Psalm 102:3; James 4:14).
- B. We are to redeem the time (John 12:35-36; Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5).
- C. Time is the one commodity that none of us can afford to waste (Acts 9:38; 22:16; Hebrews 3:13).
- D. Time is a commodity that is not eternal (Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Peter 3:9-10).
- E. Time is used literally and it is used figuratively.
 - 1. Literal time (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; 7:11; Numbers 9:5; Jeremiah 25:11-12).
 - 2. Figurative time (Daniel 12:7; 2 Peter 3:8).
 - a) The words "time," "season," and "days" are used to describe an undefined period of time for the unfolding of God's will to be revealed or completed (Acts 13:11; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:10).
 - b) "Time" can also refer to something that is appropriate. For example, someone may say, "It's not time to open presents yet. That is for Christmas morning" (Acts 24:25; Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 4:2).

II. A Time For Everything

- A. Sometimes "time" refers to what is appropriate as God specifies. This is how Solomon used the word in his beautiful poem about time in Ecclesiastes 3:1-10.
- B. For all the affairs of life, God has set a time, or the beginning of a period. The length of time and the particular events along that time are each ordained in the providence of God. To illustrate this assertion, Solomon turns to 14 pairs of opposites to illustrate the comprehensiveness of God's plan. He is in control of all the affairs of life in the sense that everything revolves around His laws.
 - 1. A time to be born, and a time to die.
 - a) There is a time which God has allotted for birth to occur after gestation.
 - b) He has set the boundaries of a man's life (Psalm 90:10; Hebrews 9:27).
 - 2. A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
 - a) Planting is appropriate in early spring, but not later; and harvest happens at the appropriate time as God designed it. No farmer will ever be successful if he does not pay attention to the design of nature and the rules of growing plants.
 - b) Jesus referred to this when He told the apostles that there was a harvest in Samaria if they would work for it (John 4:35).
 - 3. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up.
 - a) God has not only set the boundaries of a man's lifespan, but God has also indicated that there is a time when killing is appropriate in the execution of divine justice (Romans 13:4).

- b) However, killing indiscriminately or from rage or hatred is inappropriate and has no “season” because God condemns murder (1 Peter 4:15).
- 4. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
 - a) God designed human beings to have emotions. Therefore, it is not a sin to embrace them and express them (Psalm 6:6-7; John 11:35).
 - b) Some people have the mistaken idea that grief and sorrow is unbecoming of a Christian. The idea that it is sinful for a Christian to be sad is contrary to the Bible. God said there is a time to weep and a time to mourn.
- 5. A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.
 - a) God instituted the laws for marriage (Matthew 19:4), and that includes the sexual relationship. It is appropriate only in marriage, and even in marriage there is something more important — devotion to God.
 - b) In marriage Paul said there is a time for abstinence in order to devote ourselves to God in prayer (1 Corinthians 7:5).
- 6. A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
 - a) In our younger years when we are married and raising children, we accumulate lots of clothes, furniture, knick-knacks, and memorabilia.
 - b) But the time comes when we get rid of the objects of our youth, because they no longer serve a purpose. Paul even said the time will come for everyone when we must put away childish things (1 Corinthians 13:11).
- 7. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.
 - a) In the Proverbs he often spoke of how the surest proof of a fool is his many words (Proverbs 29:20).
 - b) On the other hand, Solomon discussed the appropriateness of good words that should be spoken (Proverbs 25:11; Ecclesiastes 9:17).
- 8. A time to love, and a time to hate.
 - a) This might be a surprise to the person who first reads Ecclesiastes, but God said there is a time to hate (cp. Proverbs 6:16-19). The psalmist said he hated every false way (Psalm 119:104, 128).
 - b) Shouldn't we also hate every false way? Shouldn't we hate the same seven sins that the Lord hates? On the other hand, we should love the law like the psalmist (Psalm 119:97).
- 9. A time of war, and a time of peace.
 - a) Warfare is awful, but sometimes among men, it is necessary in the execution of justice. God sanctioned many of the wars of the Jews as He protected them. They were enemies who stood in the way of Israel's divinely appointed progress toward Canaan (Deuteronomy 25:17-19).
 - b) Also, in human history there have been Hitlers, Mussolinis, and Husseinis who have sparked wars that were necessary in order to stop them from destroying innocent life (Daniel 4:17, 32).

Conclusion. Time exists in all these beautiful elements according to the plan of God. How do you use your time? Use it to obey the gospel of Christ and be faithful to Him until death. Come up here and let us know as we stand and sing.

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