

Sermon Notes

Faithfulness, Fruitfulness and Facing Eternity - 2 Peter – Part 1

REFLECTIONS

How Much
Time do we
Have?

RIVER ROAD
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Reflections

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

Time, is the commodity that we seem to have plenty of to pursue our own interests, but claim to have in short supply when called upon if there is work to be done. It starts out when we are children and are being asked, or told, to accomplish a particularly dreadful chore at home. We suddenly seem to have too much homework, or some other project that will leave us too short on time to do the unpleasant task for which our efforts are being summoned. In such cases we often heard the prophetic utterance, "Just wait 'til your dad gets home!"

Time influences just about everything that we do. When we have fun it goes by too fast. When we are anticipating some unpleasantness, it drags. It seems that we either are running out of it or have too much of it "on our hands". It can be a demanding master or a wonderful entertainer.

The Bible speaks frequently about things in the context of time. In reading the sacred text we learn that the creation period of six days was followed by the seventh day of rest. The period of the flood is described in terms of time references and even the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus is given with a time context for the events through which our salvation was purchased. Our salvation is also given a time stamp when the Word declares.... *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2b* James also defines our lives in terms of time when he says... *For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. James 4:14b* Given the importance of the concept of time in our lives, let's think about how our Christian walk is influenced by time, and how important it is to use the time we have for the Lord.

Jesus taught that we are given today and that to worry about tomorrow or even yesterday can distract us from the great importance of being faithful and diligent in the time we have been given. Since we can't know the future that our lives may experience, it becomes vitally important that our lives remain focused on being obedient to God's Word and to express the new

nature that we were given by His grace through Jesus His Son, by living it each and every day. One need only examine the headlines in the media to be convinced that this old world is not serving the Lord. We see all manner of behaviors and events that seem to speak toward a culmination of time and judgement on the enemies of God. Time is clearly running out!

We can read the prophetic portions of Scripture and compare them with the headlines and begin to see some very convincing evidence that these are being fulfilled in the very world in which we live. Jesus spoke to His disciples, in answer to their questions regarding the end of the age and His return, and said to them *"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earth-quakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."* *Matthew 24:4-8* He continued by telling them that as these events, and others, begin to unfold, the world will soon see Him return in glory and power.

How much time do we have 'til He returns? Only the Father knows the day and hour, but we are told to be observant because there will be those indicators that will precede His return and to be ready in case we are part of the generation that will see Him coming in the clouds. But in spite of the unknown specifics regarding when He will physically return to earth, we all know that unless we are part of that generation, our lives will end in death and that none of us knows when that time will come. Each day could be our last on earth and that alone should remind us that we must live each of the days allotted to us in His grace and for His glory.

Knowing that our lives in Him are assured of His presence in eternity because we have received salvation provided through His death, burial and resurrection, how then should we live? Should we live a life of ungrateful disregard for being obedient to His Word, or should we live in worship, obedience and in glorifying His name with our lives? How much time do we have? God knows even though we do not. The most important question is: Are you ready to meet Him? If you have not received Him into your life as your Savior and Lord, you are not! That being said, how then are you spending the time you have been given? For Him or for you? **Pastor Doug**