

59. Time Keeps on Slipping into the Future



Time is a mysterious phenomenon that has occupied philosophers from all epochs. You race to school, brought to consciousness by our alarm or the routine of our homes. There is always more to do in the school term than you can ever accomplish, working harder and longer just won't solve the matter. What the gospel does declare is that there is time to do just that which God calls us to. We can tire ourselves out at school and church to impress others, because we are over ambitious to get promoted, because we falsely believe we *are* what we *do*, or because it's easier than putting in significant investments in prayer and nurturing difficult family and friendship relationships. The devil tempts you and me to wrong use of the time we are given, and as believers we are to redeem it, not by overwork or by immoral choices, but by recognising the season and responding with the right time allocation (Colossians 4:5). Our culture affirms overwork and guilt can press us onwards on a treadmill unnecessarily.

If you ask an older teacher, they will tell you that it didn't seem that long ago they were a young, single and professional, with all their career before them. For a teacher who awaits retirement, the months drag by. For the young teacher, looking forward to the weekend activities- time moves so slowly, then the weekend enjoyments flash by, and its Monday morning again all too soon. The sundial marks out our ministry weeks and years. We start to graduate cohort after cohort. The

shadow moves across the dial and our wall shows photos of students all looking young and fresh.

The teacher in the photo, (you) starts to show signs of wear and tear. Your hairstyle and fashion sense change as one views the succession of photos. Your destiny is to exist outside time's constraints in heaven. In eternity time is meaningless.

Time as a linear sequence of instants, is something we all are equally allocated-all of us get 24 hours to invest. It can't be accumulated like other assets; we must choose how to spend it. In Mark 6:31 Jesus says lets drop out of this whirlwind of activity and performance, let's rest. Salvation by works is not the yoke I put upon you. Your perspective on time is to be formed by eternity's perspective so you live to in a way that's different to those who are not inhabited by the Spirit of Jesus.

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

*Deep honour and bright glory to the King of All Time - One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes! **I Timothy 1:17***

*With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. **2 Peter 3:8***

*Lord, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every person at their best state is but vapour. **Psalms 39:4-5***

*There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth: A right time for birth and another for death, A right time to plant and another to reap, A right time to kill and another to heal, A right time to destroy and another to construct, A right time to cry and another to laugh, A right time to lament and another to cheer, A right time to make love and another to abstain, A right time to embrace and another to part, A right time to search and another to count your losses, A right time to hold on and another to let go, A right time to rip out and another to mend, A right time to shut up and another to speak up, A right time to love and another to hate, A right time to wage war and another to make peace. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8***

*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without Christ, redeeming the time. **Colossians 4:5***

An article on time and the Bible

http://bible.org/seriespage/stewardship-time/#P3970_1006046

The philosophy of time, an introduction.

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/time/>

www.beaconmedia.com.au