

The Wonder of Time:

Introduction:

“How time flies” is a classic statement we have made or heard at some point. The summer is gone and we are already moving towards our fall season. This morning I want to speak to the wonder of time and how significant it is to our lives. Imagine with me for a moment that you filled out an online questionnaire for your local bank and you won a prize. Every morning for the rest of your life your bank would deposit \$ 86,400.00 in your private account for your use. Yahoo!!! Think about it for a moment; what would you do with \$86,400.00 every day for the rest of your life? However, with the prize come certain guidelines, just as any game has certain rules (fine print).

The first set of rules would be:

- Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
- You may not invest it or simply transfer money into some other account.
- You may only spend it.

Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$ 86,400.00 for that day.

The second set of rules:

- The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "It's over, the game is over!"
- It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

Now what would you do each and every day? You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all people you love? Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself? You would try to spend every cent on anyone and everyone?

Actually this imaginary bank account is real for each one of us in this room. Every morning we receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life, and when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us. What we haven't lived up that day is forever lost, yesterday is forever gone. Every morning the account is refilled, but the banker can dissolve your account at any time.....WITHOUT WARNING.

In light of this, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds today and tomorrow and the next day?

The gift of time is a remarkable reality that God has given to each one of us. **Psalm 31:15** states, **“My times are in your hands...”** The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a time for everything – **a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.**

God and time:

We are considering the wonder of time today and when we do so we must look at the relationship between God and time to fully appreciate it. When we think of time we typically see a clock, the seconds passing by; what time is supper? When do I have to pick the kids up – what time? However, in relation to God and time the Bible uses a variety of descriptive words; eternal, everlasting and forever all describe God as having an infinite or limitless duration of time. God is described as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End and yet God is bigger than this understanding of time. He is the beginning of time and yet he is greater than time and has no beginning or end. In other words, God lives outside of time and space as we know it.

- **Deut 33:27 - The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...**
- **Psalm 90:1-2 - Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**
- **Isa 40:28-31 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**
- **Matt 6:13b - For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

These Biblical expressions try to help us understand who God is from our point of reference – space and time. And yet the relationship between God and time is quite unique. God is not limited to space and time. This helps us to define the wonder of time in our relationship with God – He is greater than time and yet has given us 86,400 seconds every day to be in relationship with him.

Man and time:

We all have a certain amount of time to spend in our lifetime, some more and some less. Before the fall of mankind into sin, Adam and Eve were meant to live forever yet within the confines of time and space. There was no sin causing sickness or death and they could freely eat of the Tree of Life forever. As a result of man becoming sinful – time actually became a burden to mankind. In other words, now there was a limit to how much time each person was given. To some degree time is similar to any other hardships or curses that we now experience. At some point or another we have all said, “I wish I had a little more time”. Time is something we now have to manage well or it will slip through our hands like water at the beach.

And yet time gives each of us so many great opportunities to bless God and each other. There are instances over and over in the Scriptures of people taking the time to bless others and in turn God blessing his people. God said he would bless Abraham who in turn would bless those who blessed him... One of the most important aspects of time is not the past or the future *but the present – now.*

NOW - man can only live in the here and now and therefore must engage God and time in the present. Therefore what we do with our time is important to God.

We are told in **Col 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** Whatever you take time to do we are to do our best. One of the ways God determines our inheritance now and in the future is by evaluating our use of time. Day by day we have the opportunity to increase our future and hope simply by being wise and righteous with our time.

Time well spent with your spouse and family increases your bank account with God so to speak.

Time invested in the lives of others offers great reward from the hand of God; One Another's...

Time not wasted is important to God especially in light of the following verses. What we do now can affect someone else for an eternity. **2 Pet 3:8-9 - But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

In Conclusion:

I would say time is one of the most valuable and wonderful qualities of life. We talked briefly about the Seven Wonders of the World last week. Time rates as one of the most amazing and significant creations of God. We have the opportunity to know God who is from everlasting to everlasting personally. This relationship is unto eternal life for those who believe in Jesus Christ and carry on in genuine and growing friendship with God.

The writer of Hebrews repeats several times "today if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts". The writer uses the tool of time to exhort the people to come to Jesus Christ. He goes onto say "the time has come for a new covenant", in other words, it is time to engage in one's relationship with God. It is mentioned in the Bible that "today is the day of salvation". There is no better time than now to become a Christian and there is no better time than now to live as a Christian.

In Application:

We are starting a new season in the life of the church. After a great summer we are now getting ready for the fall and winter seasons. This is the time in the life of a congregation when we see things starting up once again after a season of holiday and rest. There is always activity in the Kingdom of God and the life of a church. As a part of the Body of Christ we have the opportunity to make wise use of our time by serving one another and thereby serving God. Today and in the weeks ahead I encourage you to consider how you can use your time to serve God and another... The Bible tells us that in so much as we do to the least of people it is like we are blessing and serving the Most High. Wow... So lets manage our time well and help serve within God's family... Whatever we do lets do it with all our heart and soul and strength for the glory of God.