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*This book is dedicated to my father and mother, Clarence and Edith Williams, who taught me the importance of "redeeming the time." They demonstrated by precept and example that 'killing time' is not murder; it's suicide!*



“... the men of Issachar, understood the times and knew what Israel should do...”

I Chronicles 12:32

## **INTRODUCTION**

Take a look at your watch. *What time is it?* A quick glance at the watch on your wrist will quickly answer that simple question. It matters not whether it is a \$10 digital watch from Wal-Mart or a \$10,000 diamond-studded Rolex from the most exclusive jewelry store, you can quickly see what time it is. So if you are able to read this book, I am confident that you know how to tell time. That's because as we grow up, learning to read and learning to tell time are two of the things we are taught early in life, either by parents or school teachers.

Babies or small children have no concept of time. Their only timepiece is their body, and it is totally subjective. It is based on bodily need and preprogrammed by their Creator. Their internal biological clock reminds them when it is time to wake up, eat or sleep. Besides that, they have no consciousness of time as adults have. Their time schedules often conflict with that of their parents, especially their mothers who must constantly adjust their days and nights to meet the needs of their babies. But as they grow

from infants to small children, they learn how to “tell time.”

An essential part of learning to “tell time” is being able to distinguish between the slow moving big hand and little hand that distinguish hours in the day, and the fast moving second hand that breaks down our hours into seconds and minutes. So as children are taught how to tell time, they learn how to divide their days into seconds, minutes and hours, and into a.m. or p.m. Forever thereafter, they increasingly live with a growing time consciousness. Or at least some of them do. It seems that there are some personality types for whom time is always an irrelevant issue! They just live oblivious to time – theirs and anybody else’s!

So I am beginning this book by asking you a very *timely* question. I well realize that this is a very dangerous thing for any writer, preacher or teacher to do! That’s because we would like for you to get so caught up in what we are speaking or writing about that you will become completely oblivious to time. But that is an illusive state of mind that few of us can induce people into – especially for a long period of time! So I again ask you the most relevant of all questions:

*What time is it? Or, do you REALLY know what time it is?*

If you are an adult, you know how to tell time. You can read your watches as surely as you can read this book. We have wrist watches, finger watches, pocket watches and pendant watches. We have clocks on our walls, Big Bens in our bell towers and digital clocks in our signs. Our TVs, radios, cell phones and pagers tell us time, just as our computers do. As I write this book, there is a small ever-changing clock on the toolbar in the bottom right hand of my laptop. It is constantly reminding me of the time, and especially how much more time is on my battery before it shuts my computer down! Everywhere you look in the modern world, you are reminded of time.

In America we are a time conscious society. As a highly industrialized and mechanized nation, we know that time is money. Every day millions of employees punch clocks as they begin their work day. During their shift if they start killing time, there is always a supervisor around to remind them that the clock keeps ticking! Most American workers begin their day by punching in on the time clock and end their working day by punching out, and they are paid accordingly. For most workers an eight hour day and

forty hour week is the norm. Anything above that is overtime or time-and-a-half. And every worker is expected to give an honest day's work for an honest day's wage.

However, I frequently travel to Africa where time is not so important. They run on what I call "African Elastic Time!" Likewise, many parts of the East also run on "Asian Stretchable Time!" The time stated for something often does not remotely resemble reality. When I travel and minister on those continents, I have to remind myself that 8:00 does not really mean 8:00. It usually means 8:45 or 9:00! They tend to be fashionably late for every event! And the higher and more important their position, the later they are! So I have spent half of my life overseas waiting for people to arrive on time, so we can leave on time, arrive on time, start on time, and then end on time! I have had to learn that while I live by the minute and second hand on my watch, they live by the hour hand at best – and the calendar at worse! I am reminded again and again that people across the world don't tell time the same way!

But not only do many people not know how to tell time and keep time by their watches, even more are oblivious to God's time. When it comes to time, the

most important question of all is this: *Do you know what time it is from God's perspective?*

You see, the Bible is God's clock. It is His timepiece. The Scriptures, especially the prophetic passages, are His revelation about time. Since God created time and exists outside of our human time capsule, the Bible reveals time from the vantage point of eternity. It tells eternal time and not just temporal time.

Obviously then, it is only when we understand what time it is from God's perspective that we will be able to be like the men of Issachar. It was only because they understood the times from God's perspective that they knew what Israel should do. It is only when we properly understand the times that we will know the proper course of action to take. That's why our doing must be based upon our knowing.

Therefore, if we wrongly interpret time, we will wrongly invest our lives.

Once again I ask you one of life's most important question: *Do you know what time it is? If so, what are you doing about it?*



**PRINCIPLE**



**HOW WE TELL TIME WILL LARGELY  
DETERMINE HOW WE LIVE.**

**RIGHT DOING MUST BE BASED  
UPON RIGHT KNOWING.**



## **TWO BIBLICAL CLOCKS**

In the Bible there are two primary words used to describe time. That's because God reveals time to us naturally and supernaturally. As His infallible time-piece, the Bible shows us what time it is in both the natural and spiritual realms. God's revelation of time is 100% accurate. When the Bible talks about time, you must know which time zone it is referring to – the earthly or the heavenly.

Let me give you an illustration. A few years ago at the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Directions International, my staff gave me a beautiful wristwatch with "two faces." Hopefully it wasn't because I am two-faced – but rather so I could better tell time in two different time zones! This watch was something that I had needed and wanted for a long time because of my constant travels around the world. They especially wanted me to have it so I would not be calling them at odd hours in the middle of the night from the other side of the globe! With this "two-faced watch," I can keep accurate time in two separate time zones simultaneously. I always keep the smaller watch set on "home time" so I always know what time it is where my wife, Patt, is, along with the children and grandchildren. Then I change the larger watch to whatever "foreign time" I

am in at the moment. That way I can live with an accurate consciousness of two times – at the same time.

In a similar way, God wants us to live out our earthly time with an acute sense of His eternal time. He wants us to adjust our earthly living to His heavenly timetable. He wants us to see that His eternal time is our real “home time,” while our earthly time is really “foreign time.” That’s because our time here on earth is finite and fleeting, while God’s time is eternal.

So with the illustration of my dual faced wristwatch in mind, let’s carefully distinguish between the two primary time words in the Bible. As a result, I hope you will increasingly be able to tell time from God’s perspective.

The first Biblical word for time is *chronos*. It primarily means a period of time, a duration of time, a segment of time, a moment in time, whether short or long. Let me amplify this very significant Biblical word for you:

- It is used 54 times in the New Testament.
- It is this Greek word *chronos* from which we get English words like chronology or

chronological, the science of measuring time or the sequence of events.

- *Chronos* time is measured by clocks and calendars.
- In earlier centuries, *chronos* was measured by the slow moving shadow on the sundial.
- It was also calibrated by the grains of sand slowly dropping in the hour glass.
- *Chronos* times are the dates that are recorded in history books and time capsules.
- More personally, *chronos* is measured by the beats of our heart.
- This kind of time is linear – with a beginning point and an ending point. So the Biblical revelation of linear time is contrary to the Eastern concept of cyclical time that has spawned the belief in the endless reincarnations of Eastern religions and mysticism.
- *Chronos* time is calibrated in terms of past, present, and future.
- Therefore, *chronos* time is temporal, not eternal.
- Each of us has been sovereignly granted a certain amount of *chronos* by God.
- *Chronos* is finite. This kind of time is non-renewal and non-refundable. Once it

is spent, it can never be recalled and re-lived.

- For *chronos* there are no time machines, like some movies portray, that can alter it.
- In the *chronos* time zone, there are no Pause, Stop, Rewind, or Fast-Forward buttons for the time controls of our lives. Only God holds the *chronos* controls of our lives in His hands.
- *Chronos*, then, is the kind of time by which you measure your life. One day your *chronos* will be summarized by the little short dash on your tombstone between the words born and died!

From the human perspective, there can be no more important word than *chronos*. It represents the very essence of our lives. In one real sense, it is what will one day define each of our lives. Therefore, *chronos* has both temporal and eternal significance.

But there is another word for time in the Bible that is even more important than *chronos*. It is *kairos*. You might think of it as the divine time measured by the watch that God wears on His arm – a significant timepiece indeed! It is God's sovereign *kairos* that

determines our *chronos*. That's why the Bible reminds us: "My times are in His hands" (Psalm 31:15).



**PRINCIPLE**

***CHRONOS* IS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE.**

***CHRONOS* HAS BOTH TEMPORAL AND ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

So, just as I did previously with *chronos*, allow me to amplify *kairos* for you.

- This highly significant time word is used 85 times in the New Testament, mostly by Doctor Luke and the Apostle Paul, two men who were in sync with God's eternal clock.
- It is used over 300 times in the Septuagint, or Greek translation of the Old Testament, 300% more often than *chronos* is used.
- *Chronos* time refers to a quantity of time; *kairos* time refers to a quality of time.
- It usually means a particular point of time, the right moment, a special time or a special season.

- This kind of time is usually characterized by certain features like:
  - A time of war
  - A time of peace
  - A period of prosperity
  - A time of exile and slavery
  - A time of distress
  - A time of drought and famine
  - A time of apostasy
  - A time of revival etc.
- *Kairos* is a significant, decisive, deciding and defining moment in history that sets it apart to be forever remembered.
- In American history a *kairos* moment would be Pearl Harbor, D-Day, or 9-11.
- Most importantly *kairos* is a God moment that invades *chronos*.
- *Kairos* is a specific *chronos* moment in history when eternity invades time.
- A *kairos* moment changes forever the destiny of individuals and nations.

The Bible is obviously full of *kairos* moments when God invaded and intervened in the lives of men and nations. In fact, God's redemptive intervention with man is the basic theme of the Bible. Of the myriads of examples I could cite, I will just give a few:

- God's call of Abraham out of Ur
- His blood covenant with Abraham based on grace
- His sovereign bestowment of the Promised Land to Abraham's seed
- Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and God's intervention
- Moses' burning bush experience
- The ten plagues God brought against Egypt through Moses
- Moses giving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai
- Kadesh Barnea and the wilderness that resulted in forty years of wandering in the wilderness
- Elijah's conflict with the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel
- The birth of Jesus Christ
- Christ's death on the cross
- Day of Pentecost when the Church was born
- Paul's conversion on the Damascus Road

The story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is a story of God's *kairos* revelation and redemption of our



*chronos*. That's why the Bible and History is *His*-story. First and foremost, history is not about us; it is about Him.



## **BIBLICAL KAIROS MOMENTS**

Now that we have looked in general terms at these two important time words in the Bible, let's illustrate them with specific verses. While *chronos* times will be indicated in various verses, the *kairos* moments will be emphasized. That's because *chronos* has temporal significance while *kairos* has both temporal and eternal significance. These *kairos* moments in the Bible are often referred to as the "fullness of time."

### **PRINCIPLE**

***KAIROS* IS A GOD MOMENT IN  
*CHRONOS* WHEN ETERNITY INVADES  
TIME.**



**THE DESTINY OF MEN AND NATIONS  
ARE DETERMINED BY THEIR RESPONSE  
TO A *KAIROS* MOMENT.**

Now let's look in depth at some of the epic *kairos* events in the Bible:

## **THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

The birth of Jesus Christ was certainly the greatest *kairos* event in human history! In fact, His birth was so significant historically and spiritually that it divided history. To this day, Western historians and writers denote time in terms of B.C., or Before Christ, and A.D, or Anno Domini, meaning “In the Year of our Lord.” Jewish writers, however, use the term BCE instead, meaning Before the Christian Era, a covert acknowledgment of His birth. So, regardless of whether He is positively or negatively recognized, the birth of Christ has had greater historical impact than that of any other single person in history.

His birth represented God’s personal invasion into human history. From the human perspective, especially that of the Jewish people, the *chronos* of His *kairos* seemed very untimely indeed! When Christ was born, Rome ruled the world. The majority of the Roman Empire lived in slavery while a minority of Roman citizens lived in privilege and prosperity. The Jewish people were in servitude to the Roman Caesars and their legions of merciless soldiers.

Even worse than the political oppression by Rome was the dejected and disillusioned state of the Jewish

religion. While the Jews still longed for God to send His promised Messiah, they wanted one who would come in military power and might to overthrow Rome. They did not want one who would come as a humble babe born in a manger to a lowly peasant couple in an insignificant town in Palestine. Because God's *kairos* did not fit their expectations – most Jews missed it – along with the majority of the rest of the world of that day. This teaches us that the *kairos* visitations of God often come at an unexpected time and in an unsuspecting way.



**PRINCIPLE**

**THE *KAIROS* MOMENTS OF GOD ARE OFTEN MISSED BECAUSE THEY COME AT UNEXPECTED TIMES AND IN UNSUSPECTING WAYS**

Perhaps the best known verse in the Bible about the *kairos* birth of Christ is in Galatians.

In this short verse, the Apostle Paul summarizes both the historical and theological significance of the birth of Christ:

“When the fullness of time came [*chronos*], God sent forth His Son born

of a woman [a *kairos* redemption event], born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Galatians 4:4-5

In this verse, Paul reminds us that through the birth of Christ a unique *kairos* had dawned in human history! Because this was the birth of God, it was a divine-human incarnation like no other birth in history. This was nothing less than the God of the universe taking up His habitation in human flesh. It was both a miracle beyond expectation and a mystery beyond comprehension! For God to become incarnated – and especially as a helpless babe born to a young virgin in a cattle stall – was unthinkable! To the Jew, it was a scandalous sacrilege and blatant heresy to their understanding of God. As a result, they largely rejected Him and His claims of deity. His birth credentials just did not seem to qualify Him as their long-awaited Messiah.

However, the miraculous nature of His life only confirmed the supernatural nature of His birth. Another New Testament writer, who knew Jesus more inti-

mately than anyone else during His short earthly ministry, further described His Incarnation this way:

- “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us [a *kairos* incarnation]. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1,14

- “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared, we have seen it and testify to it [a *kairos* revelation], and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”

I John 1:1-2

So, as we have seen, the *kairos* of Christ has divided the *chronos* of history into B.C. and A.D. No other religious or political leader in history has had that impact! Indeed, history is HIS STORY! Therefore, the most important *kairos* moment in the history of the world was the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus – the redemption act when eternity invaded time!



## THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST

Whether or not other people understood or acknowledged the redemptive *kairos* Incarnation of Christ, He certainly did. Jesus was acutely conscious of His divine nature and purpose for coming into the world. This is seen clearly in how He began His public ministry. He simply declared to the Jewish people that the *kairos* of God had come to them.

“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time [*kairos*] has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.’”

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus was proclaiming that through His preaching, teaching, healing, miracles and exorcisms that the Kingdom of God had invaded the kingdoms of man. His life and ministry had ushered in the *kairos* of God, and all they had to do to receive it was to repent and believe the Good News.

But Jesus proclaimed that it was His miracles of healing and deliverance that proved beyond question that the *kairos* of God had invaded the *chronos* of man.



He made this point after He had exercised His power over the demonic realm and cast a demon out of a person.

“...if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you.” Luke 11:20

Jesus was saying that His power to perform miracles – and especially His ability to cast out demons – was irrefutable proof that the Kingdom of God had come to them. His ministry of healing and deliverance was unmistakable evidence that the *kairos* of God had indeed invaded the *chronos* of man. God’s Kingdom had invaded man’s kingdom and was bringing release to those who were captive in Satan’s kingdom. That’s why Jesus said the same thing in another context:

“Do not believe Me unless I do what My Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” John 10:36-38

Whether or not we understand the significance of what Jesus was claiming, the Jews clearly did. He was unequivocally proclaiming oneness with God. In their minds, this was blatant blasphemy. They tried to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp. It was not yet His *kairos* time to die.

Therefore, the problem with many of the religious leaders of Christ's day is the same problem many people have today: THEY COULDN'T TELL TIME! While the Jewish religious leaders were very astute at interpreting *chronos*, Jesus said that they were oblivious to God's *kairos*! They were asking Jesus to prove Himself by showing them a sign from heaven. To that Jesus replied:

“When evening comes you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’\* You know how to interpret the appearances

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\* Note: This was a popular proverb that Jesus quoted to the religious leaders, and is similar to our saying today: “Red skies at night, sailor’s delight! Red skies in the morning, sailors take warning!”

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of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times [*kairos*].”

Matthew 16:1-3

In saying this Jesus was giving a severe indictment against these Jewish leaders about their inability to tell time, at least from God’s perspective. These Scribes and Pharisees were the theologians of their day. They were privileged to have received God’s revelation, His spiritual *kairos* clock. And yet, while they understood the *chronos* of the natural world around them by interpreting accurate weather forecasts, they could not interpret the signs of the times. They were blind to the fact that the *kairos* of God had invaded their world.

When you watch the lives, priorities, spending of time and money by many Christians, you are driven to the same conclusions! While living in *chronos*, they are completely out of touch with *kairos*! In other words, the *kairos* of God has not radically rearranged their priorities or changed their lifestyles.

**PRINCIPLE**



HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME AND  
MONEY DURING OUR *CHRONOS* ON  
EARTH REVEALS THE DEGREE THAT  
GOD'S *KAIROS* HAS IMPACTED OUR  
LIVES

So, my friend, are you like the majority of religious people of Christ's day? While you can look at the skies and interpret the weather conditions, you still cannot interpret the signs of the times?



## **THE DEATH OF CHRIST**

We have seen in the previous section that through His preaching, teaching, healing and deliverance ministry, Jesus was demonstrating that He was the redemptive Incarnation of God's *kairos* invasion of human history. And yet, the majority of the people were so preoccupied with the *chronos* of the world around them that they completely missed God's *kairos* moment for them and for the Jewish Nation.

But regardless of their inability to interpret the signs of the times, Jesus never lost perspective of God's time for Him. He lived in perfect sync with God's *kairos* for Him every moment of His earthly life. He never ran ahead or fell behind God's time and purpose for Him. Nothing or no one could cause Him to lose His sense of *kairos* timing. He knew that His Father's redemptive timetable was sovereignly fore-ordained before the creation of the world. So neither the opposition of the Jews, the oppression of the Romans, the presumption of His mother, the unbelief of His brothers, nor the dullness of His disciples' understanding could pressure Him into tampering with God's perfect *kairos* timetable for His life. This was especially so concerning His death since it was the primary purpose for His coming into the world. Time

and time again Jesus taught His disciples that He was born to die. That was the supreme purpose for His coming into the world. “The Son of Man,” Jesus said, “did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).

Nothing could alter God’s perfect *kairos* for this supreme redemptive act of history. It would take place at God’s appointed *kairos* – and not a second before or after. Let’s look at several verses that clearly reveal Christ’s awareness of God’s perfect *kairos* for His death on the cross.

Perhaps the very first recorded example of this is the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee where Jesus performed His first miracle. As you may recall, the wedding party experienced a crisis because they ran out of wine. Knowing that Jesus had come from God and had divine power, His mother, Mary, asked Him to intervene. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why do you involve Me? My time [*kairos*] has not yet come” (John 2:4).

Another example was at the week long Feast of Tabernacles. Interestingly, God had prepared the Jewish people for His *kairos* moments by having them plan their year around seven festivals that would mark off

their annual *chronos*. The final one at the end of their agricultural year was the Feast of Tabernacles<sup>†</sup>. It was one of the three feasts that every Jewish man had to attend each year in Jerusalem, bringing the prescribed offerings. God had clearly instructed through Moses:

“Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place He will choose. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed. Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

As Jews, Jesus and His brothers were obligated to go up to Jerusalem to participate in this Festival. Since His brothers did not believe His claims of being God’s Messiah, they tried to provoke Him to prove Himself at the Feast. They chided Him with these words:

“When the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus’ brothers said to Him:

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<sup>†</sup> For a more detailed study on the 7 Feasts of Judaism, refer to my book: *Understanding Your Jewish Roots*

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‘You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that Your disciples may see the miracles You do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world.’”

John 7:2-4

The Gospel writer John interjects and clarifies it: “For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.”

His brothers in essence were taunting Him by saying: “Prove Yourself! If You are who You say You are, quit hiding it. Go up to the Feast and show Yourself to the world.” No doubt this unbelief and sarcasm from His own brothers was deeply painful to the Lord Jesus. But Jesus still believed in Himself even when those closest to Him did not believe. We read:

“Therefore Jesus told them, ‘The right time [*kairos*] for Me has not yet come, for you any time [*kairos*] is right. You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up, because for Me the right time [*kairos*] has not yet come.’”

John 7:5-8



Jesus did indeed go up to the Feast later when He sensed that it was God's *kairos* moment for Him to publicly proclaim that He was indeed the Christ, that He was the very Incarnation and fulfillment of all that this Feast portrayed. On the culmination day of this week long Festival Jesus clearly revealed Himself to the world. Note this account:

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’”

John 7:37-38

So when God's *kairos* moment came in the midst of the *chronos* of this Feast, Jesus boldly and loudly proclaimed that He was God's Messiah! There was a mixed response to His proclamation. Some said that He surely was a prophet. Others said He was indeed the Christ. But others completely disbelieved and were hostile to Him. “Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him” (John 7:40-44). Because it was not yet God's *kairos* moment for Him to die, no one touched Him.

Another incident in the last week of Christ's life again revealed His acute sense of God's *kairos* for His death. It was the day of His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Note these words:

“As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The day will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time [*kairos*] of God's coming to you.”

Luke 19:41-44

Here Jesus clearly prophesied that unimaginable disaster awaited the unbelieving Jewish Nation because they had not accepted God's redemptive *kairos* time for them. Their *chronos* as a Nation was rapidly drawing to a close because they rejected God's *kai-*

ros revelation of His Messiah for their individual and national salvation.

“But it was at the Last Supper, on the very eve of His death, that Jesus again clearly told His disciples that the *kairos* for His death had now come. He sent several of His disciples into Jerusalem to make preparation for His last Passover with them. It would be celebrated in a borrowed Upper Room. His disciples were instructed to go into the city to a certain man and tell him, “The Teacher says, ‘My appointed time [*kairos*] is near, I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”

Matthew 26:18

It was during the *chronos* of this Passover that Jesus proclaimed that the fullness of God’s time had come for Him to die for the sins of the world. The *kairos* of the cross had now come. He symbolized His imminent death through the institution of Communion with these now familiar words:

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and

gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take and eat, this is My body.'

Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Matthew 26:26-28

In saying and doing this, Jesus was bringing a close to the *chronos* of the Jewish Passover by the *kairos* of His death. He was ushering in a new covenant through His own blood for the forgiveness of sins. But Jesus also said that all of this would one day be consummated by a new *kairos* when He would return and usher in God's Kingdom on earth. Until that time, He would not celebrate any more Passovers. "I tell you," Jesus said to them in the Upper Room, "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's Kingdom" (Matthew 26:29). That's why the Apostle Paul would later declare this about our celebration of the Lord's Table:

“Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

II Corinthians 11:26

When Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, he reminded them about the perfect *kairos* of the death of Christ in their behalf. “At just the right time [*kairos*] when we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). While the Jews of Palestine were largely hostile and blind to the significance of Christ’s crucifixion for their sins, the Gentiles in Rome were completely unaware of the redemptive *kairos* of Christ’s death for the ungodly.

When Paul was writing one of his mentoring letters to the young pastor, Timothy, he reminded him of the perfect *kairos* of Christ’s death on behalf of the sins of the world:

“...God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as

a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time [*kairos*].”

I Timothy 2:4-6

All of these verses remind us that we are now living in the *kairos* of grace or the time of God's favor, a dispensation that will one day run out. Since that is a *kairos* known only to God, we must seize this time of grace unto salvation while the door is open. That's why Paul strongly exhorted the Gentiles in Corinth not to trifle with or frustrate the grace of God during this hour of *kairos*.

“As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says: 'In the time [*kairos*] of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, NOW is the time [*kairos*] of God's favor, NOW is the day of salvation.”

II Corinthians 6:2; c.f. Titus 1:1-3

Finally, when Peter preached his Pentecostal sermon to the Jews in Jerusalem after God had poured out His Holy Spirit giving birth to the Church, he exhorted them, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing [*kai-*

ros] may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19). They were experiencing anything but times of refreshing when Peter preached this sermon. They knew nothing but servitude and disappointment under the political occupation of Rome and the spiritual formalism and traditionalism of Judaism. Peter assured them that a *kairos* of refreshing had been sent to them by God, but it was only available through repentance and belief in God’s Messiah, the Lord Jesus. So, only repentance ushers in a time of refreshing spiritually, emotionally, maritally or financially.



## **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

Perhaps there is no greater area of confusion concerning the *kairos* of God than the *Parousia*, or Second Coming of Christ. Down through the centuries, Christians have been ignorant, confused, fearful and sometimes very unwise when it comes to the *kairos* of Christ's return. As a result, they have vacillated between totally ignoring prophecy or becoming totally preoccupied with prophecy.

While some have completely ignored the signs of the times, others have tried to figure out the exact time and details of His promised Second Coming. In the process of this prophetic undulation between opposite extremes, many have lost perspective on the basics of their faith, forgotten the Great Command to love and the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. Many have even gone against Christ's admonition against date setting by prophesying specific times and dates for the Lord's return. This misplaced emphasis and misinterpretation of prophecy has caused many to become disillusioned in the Church and discredit the cause of Christ outside the Church.



It is my desire to avoid either of these *kairos* extremes as we examine the following *Parousia* passages. I will begin with the crucial verses from Christ's Olivet discourse to His disciples:

- “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time [*kairos*] will come. It's like a man going away; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!”

Mark 13:32-37

- “There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people [Jews]. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations.

Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times [*kairos*] of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

Luke 21:23-24

Then there are the timely words of Christ to His disciples just before His ascension:

“Lord, at this time [*chronos*] are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel? He said to them: It is not for you to know the times [*chronos*] and seasons [*kairos*] the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:6-8

Then the words of the Apostle Paul to the saints at Ephesus, perhaps his greatest epistle on the Church:

“And He (God) made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the

fullness of the times [*kairos*] will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”

Ephesians 1:9-10

Finally, Paul’s practical words of exhortation to his young understudy, Timothy:

“I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in His own time [*kairos*].”

I Timothy 6:14-15



## **THE JUDGMENT OF CHRIST**

Many Christians who discuss and long for the Second Coming of Christ often forget that there will be a series of final judgments associated with that event. It will be a time when not only all of the actions of every man will be judged, but also every motive behind those acts. The reality of those various judgments should sober us into righteous living and generous giving.

Because he fully understood the reality of the coming judgments of Christ, Paul strongly exhorted those who were wrongly judging him with these sobering words:

“judge nothing before the appointed time [*kairos*]; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.”

I Corinthians 4:5

In the closing book of the New Testament, John records this vision from one of his revelations from the Holy Spirit:

“The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come. The time [*kairos*] has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding Your servants the prophets and Your saints and those who reverence Your name, both small and great.”

Revelation 11:18

These judgments will be a time of rewards and punishments. While it will be a time of wrath upon all the unrighteous, it will be a *kairos* of rewards for the Christian<sup>‡</sup>:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation

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<sup>‡</sup> For a fuller study of this matter of rewards and punishment, please see my book: *The Divine Rewarder*

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that is ready to be revealed in the last time [*kairos*].”

I Peter 1:3-5

But as you have read this chapter, you may have been thinking:

“J.L., this is a very interesting word study on time in the Bible, but how does it affect me? I understand that the life of Christ was characterized by *kairos* during His earthly *chronos*, but how does that practically impact my life, my marriage, my family, my job, or my church?”

Good questions! Let me therefore share with you what the Bible says about how Christ's *kairos* should impact your *chronos*.



## WHAT TIME IS IT?

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only” (“The Period” from *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens).

In this chapter, I want to summarize what time it is from the Biblical perspective. I want you to clearly understand the time from God’s eternal *kairos* clock – rather than from the *chronos* watch on your wrist. For it is only when we synchronize our *chronos* time with

God's *kairos* time that we can live a life in step with what He is doing in the world today.

Unfortunately, most of us wile away our lives fantasizing about some perfect time that life will all magically fall into place, or that we will finally get our act together, or that we will really get serious with God. But as Dickens rightly pointed out in his famous novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, this is both the best of times and the worst of times. It all depends upon your perspective, your attitude, your mindset, your interpretation of the events of life taking place all around you.

We either see life from our own limited perspective or from God's eternal perspective as revealed in His Word. Things stay blurred and out of focus when we are out of sync with God. Without that spiritual synchronization, we will miss the fullness of time for His second coming – just like the religious leaders did for His first coming. While they clearly knew how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, Jesus severely rebuked them for not knowing how to interpret this present time (Matthew 16:3, Luke 12:56). As a result, they missed Him as God's long-awaited Messiah!



I lovingly exhort you, then, to learn to tell time from God's perspective so you will not miss what He has for you. Tragically, millions of Christians are trivializing time like the ancient people of Athens who spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas (Acts 17:21). What a tragic waste of time! How sad to spend our precious time talking about the latest human ideas when we should spend our time in the pursuit of God's ideas!

Therefore, I want you to synchronize your spiritual clock with the following Biblical times.



## **THE TIME OF SALVATION**

First and foremost, the Bible reminds us that you and I are living in the age of grace, the time of salvation. Jesus proclaimed this liberating truth as He began His public ministry:

“Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ He said. ‘The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!’”  
Mark 1:15

The Apostle Paul later echoed these words to the carnal Christians at Corinth who had apparently lost their spiritual watches! As a result, they had gotten out of sync with God’s cosmic plan. So Paul wrote and reminded them of God’s exhortation to His people of old who had also lost their spiritual watches: “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. In the light of that *kairos* time, Paul further exhorted them: I tell you, NOW is the time of God’s favor; NOW is the day of salvation” (Isaiah 49:8; II Corinthians 6:2).

Are you missing God’s *now* of salvation because you are either bound to a past experience or dreaming of

a future fantasy? You see, the longer you postpone responding to God's *now* the less likely you will ever respond. As time passes, your heart will become less and less sensitive to the promptings of God. But even when that happens, He loves you too much to ignore you! He will just bring harder and harder blows against your life to get your attention. He will give His angels some spiritual jack-hammers to work on you. It may be through your job, your finances, your marriage, your emotions, your children, your health – but He will get your attention! That's why the prophet Hosea cried out to unrepentant Israel:

“Sow for yourselves righteousness,  
reap the fruit of unfailing love, and  
break up your unplowed ground; for it is  
time to seek the Lord.”

Hosea 10:12

You see, my friend, if we do not break up our unplowed ground through repentance and faith, God will do it for us! That's how much He loves you.

Paul reminded the saints at Ephesus about their B.C. days when their lives were totally out of sync to God's *kairos*. He wrote:

“You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”  
Ephesians 2:1-3

As a result of that spiritual, physical, mental and emotional bondage, Paul said that all of us were separated from Christ, without hope and without God in the world. That’s the bad news! But Paul doesn’t stop there. He goes on to talk about the intervention of God’s love, mercy and grace.

“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”  
Ephesians 2:4; 12-13

My friend, be honest with yourself. Which of those lists represent the time and state you are living in right now? Are you following the ways of this world? Are you in bondage to the evil one to the degree that you are living only to gratify the cravings of your sinful nature? Are you living a life that is separated from Christ? If so, then you are without hope and without God, which is a dangerous place to be!

If that describes your life, then this little book was written for you! It is God's wakeup call to lovingly remind you that this is *still* the day of salvation. You are *still* privileged to be living in the time of God's favor. The door of grace is still open to you. But one day, that day of salvation and time of God's favor will be over – either through your death or through His sudden second coming. So I implore you not to continue to ignore the times and seasons, not to continue to waste time, not to just let the clock run out like a team living in the illusion that they have won the game. Repent and believe because this is the time of salvation!



## **THE TIME OF SANCTIFICATION**

Secondly, the Bible reminds us that we are also living in the time of sanctification. Once we walk through the door of salvation through repentance and faith in Christ, we enter into a life of sanctification. This is the lifelong process of being increasingly conformed to the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Through salvation we instantaneously become partakers of God's divine nature (II Peter 1:4). It is through the sanctification process that our nature is progressively transformed and conformed to His nature. Through sanctification, His holiness and righteousness become more and more manifest in our lives (Ephesians 4:24, Hebrews 12:10, II Peter 1:3). It is only through the process of sanctification that our old carnal nature is replaced by His divine nature. And that process takes a lot of *chronos*. In fact, it takes the rest of your life!

But our sanctification largely depends upon the use of our *chronos*. Do we spend our brief time on earth in trivial pursuit or in the pursuit of holiness? Do we spend our lives wasting time or redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16)? Tragically, after salvation most Christians do not live a life of progressive sanctifica-

tion. Their lives are summarized by spiritual mediocrity rather than by spiritual maturity!

If you are already a Christian, evaluate the level of your sanctification through the following passages of Scripture:

- "... the times are evil. Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Hate evil, love good." Amos 5:13-15
- "...understand the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."  
Romans 13:11-14

- “In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written; ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

I Peter 1:13-16

- “Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in



debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry, the end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins, For it is time [*kairos*] for judgment to begin with the family of God.” I Peter 4:1-4; 7-8; 17

From these passages, you can see that this is the *kairos* time for God’s people to be sanctified. It is the time for the family of God to quit just going to church and playing church – but to really *be* the church! This is the time of ecclesiastical sanctification before our glorification. This is the time that God is judging His church of her carnality, worldliness, traditionalism, formalism, nominalism, narcissism, self-seeking, and self-serving.

Since YOU ARE the heart of church, how are you progressing in the sanctification process? Remember this principle: *Your local church cannot be any more sanctified than you are!* Is the current level of your spirituality contributing to the sanctification of your church or to the carnality of your church? Saint of God, this is the *kairos* of your sanctification!



**PRINCIPLE**  
**YOUR LOCAL CHURCH CANNOT BE**  
**ANY MORE SANCTIFIED THAN YOU**  
**ARE!**



## **THE TIME OF SERVICE**

One of the other expressions and exhortations I often heard growing up was this: *You are saved to serve*. My parents often pointed out this principle to us children as the only route to lasting happiness and fulfillment in life. They would say:

“Look around you, the happiest people you will ever meet in life are those who are living to serve others, those who have lost themselves in a need bigger than themselves. On the other hand, the most miserable people you will ever meet are those who are going through life wanting others to serve them. If you want to be happy in life, lose your life in a cause greater than yourself – which is helping meet the needs of others.”

Let us all live our lives by this practical advice and pass on to our children the principle of service.

The Lord Jesus exhorted His disciples with the priority of serving others as the authenticating mark of true spirituality. When He spoke about serving, it was not an abstract theological principle, but an existential

lifestyle. He not only said to His disciples: "I am among you as one who serves," (Luke 22:27) "He then, wrapped a towel around His waist, poured water into a basin and, washed His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him" (John 13:4-5). That's why He had absolute integrity when He challenged His disciples with a call to serve:

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be the first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28

Jesus was not just playing a role when He served others. He was not just acting or feigning servanthood to impress others. No, He was and is a true Servant! It is eternally written on His heart! That was the purpose for His laying aside His rights and prerogatives as God so that He could make Himself nothing and fully take the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:7). Serving was written on Christ's heart and it motivated His every word and deed!

The Apostle Paul exhorted the early church to be steadfast in their calling and commitment to live a life of good works for the benefit of others – just as Christ had done. “Do not be weary in doing good,” Paul wrote, “for at the proper time [*kairos*] you will reap a harvest if you do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

He specifically challenged them to minister to the needy in the Body of Christ at every opportunity:

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10

Let me ask you then: Are you living to serve or to be served? Are you giving yourself to the service of others in need, especially the needy Christians in the Body of Christ? Is your life characterized by doing good or by doing nothing? The Bible says that “Jesus went around doing good” (Acts 10:38). If your life is going to follow His example, then you too must surrender your life to service. You must do an about face from living to be served to living to serve.

Don’t you think it is about time? This very moment can be the turning point of your life from self to ser-

vice. This can be your *chronos* moment to commit your life to the *kairos* of God – for the rest of your life. If you do, I assure you will never regret it and neither will others.



## **THE TIME OF STEWARDSHIP**

The Bible reminds us over and over again that a saved life and a sanctified life are to result in a life of service and stewardship. Growing up, I was taught by precept and example that a life of service is characterized by the stewardship of a person's time, talent and treasure. Let's look at them briefly.

**First, the Stewardship of Time:** I am thankful that my parents taught me that time was my most important possession. It is far more valuable than money because you can make more money but you cannot make more time. When it comes to *chronos*, God has created all of us equally. We all have the same amount of seconds in a minute, minutes in an hour, hours in a day, days in a month, and months in a year. But it is amazing how some people are able to maximize time and make almost every moment count for something worthwhile. The majority of people, however, just kill time, fritter away time, bide their time, waste time – and in the process they reduce their lives to mediocrity and insignificance!

Let me remind you: 'Killing time' is not murder – it is suicide!

Tragically, even many Christians are guilty of poor time management. It is not so much that they spend their Christian lives in evil, but in things that have little temporal or eternal value, things such as:

- The discipline of physical exercise while neglecting the discipline of spiritual exercise
- The passionate pursuit of sports to the neglect of the passionate pursuit of lost souls
- The endless watching of TV to the neglect of fellowship with the saints
- The reading of trite novels to the neglect of Bible study
- The 'shop till you drop' mentality to the neglect of tithing
- The selfish living rather than selfless giving

So many of us are like the disciples of old who were guilty of procrastinating, perpetually putting off getting serious and getting radical in their faith walk. Jesus says the same thing to us that He said to them:

“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the



reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life.”

John 4:35-36

In light of those arousing words from the lips of the Lord Jesus, let me ask you some searching questions:

- What is your ‘four months’ that you are procrastinating about?
- What are you waiting for to get serious in your walk for the Lord?
- What ‘something’ are you waiting to happen before you fully surrender your life to Christ?
- What is the ‘it’ that you are waiting to happen in order to get your life focused?
- How many more months of your life are you going to waste before you become strategic for the Kingdom of God?
- When is your Christian life going to become so spiritually radical that it will be a threat to the kingdom of darkness and a tribute to the Kingdom of God?

As you ponder those questions, please do so through the exhortations of these verses:

- “The time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not, those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.”  
I Corinthians 7:29-31
- “And do this, understanding the present time [*kairos*]. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.”  
Romans 13:11-12
- “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”  
Ephesians 5:14-16

- “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; making the most of the time.” Colossians 4:5
- “As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” John 9:4

So, Saint of God, time is your most precious commodity. It cannot be stored up or saved. It is a non-renewal resource. Once that time is spent, it is totally expended for time and eternity! Spend your time well. Be a good steward of your time starting right NOW!

Dawson Trotman, the founder and first President of The Navigators, once said, “The greatest time wasted is the time getting started.” So, make that new start now!



**PRINCIPLE**  
**THE GREATEST TIME WASTED IS**  
**THE TIME GETTING STARTED!**

You see, God has been sovereignly orchestrating the events of your life to bring you to this present time and this present position. Therefore, I would say to you what Queen Esther's uncle said to her: "And who knows but that you have come to this position for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14)? The question you need to seriously deal with is this: Am I in His place, in His time, for the good of others, for His glory?

**Secondly, the Stewardship of Talent:** All of us as human beings have been blessed by God with natural talents. At the moment of our conception, those talents were written into our DNA. None were evident at the moment of birth nor were they manifest while we were infants or babies. But as we grew as children and adolescents, those natural talents began to manifest themselves through things like artistic skill, mathematic ability, athletic prowess, leadership, acting, dance, music or organization.

Likewise, the moment we are born of the Spirit (John 3:3), we become the recipients of supernatural talents. The Bible calls them spiritual gifts or the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:1-30; Ephesians 4:7-13; I Peter 4:10-11). It is through the sanctification process – or our growth in grace – that

we are to discover, develop and deploy our spiritual gifts for the good of others and for God's glory.<sup>§</sup>

Tragically, millions of Christians have neither discovered nor developed their spiritual gifts – much less deployed them for the Kingdom of God. That may either be their fault or the fault of the church they belong to. As a result, all of those gifts lie undiscovered, undeveloped and undeployed. God gives these kinds of dormant Christians the same exhortation as He did those in the first century:

“... though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:12-14

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<sup>§</sup> For a fuller study of this subject, please refer to my book, *The Ministry of The Holy Spirit*.

Are you in that former category? Are you still sitting in Sunday School and Church being taught when you should be teaching? Are you still on spiritual milk when you should be on spiritual meat? Are you still in the bottle and baby food stage of spirituality rather than in the meat and potato stage? Are you week after week receiving and not giving? Are you stuck in the stage of spiritual infancy and immaturity because you are not moving from information to application? If so, ponder again that last verse in Hebrews that says:

“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:14

You see, God not only wants to save you, He also wants to use you. He has a vital place on His spiritual team that can only be filled by YOU! No one else can take your place. God does not have a substitute for you. Unlike an athletic team, God does not have a second string to put in when His varsity team cannot play.

Remember how Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest,

therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field” (Matthew 9:37, Luke 10:2). That means He has a place for you on His team of harvesters. I assure you that it will be a place of fruitfulness and fulfillment. There is no joy or excitement to surpass being in the absolute center of God’s will for your life where He is maximizing Your gifts for His honor and glory through service to others! But it starts when you come out of the stands, get off the bench, get out of the pew, stop watching, stop waiting – and start playing the game of life with all of your might! That’s the kind of stewardship of your talent that will cause Him to say to you one day: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21)

**Thirdly, the Stewardship of Treasure:** Here is the place of stalling for most Christians! While they may give some of their time and talent to the Kingdom of God – they stall out at the total dedication of their treasures to the Lord Jesus! They have not yet learned the great principle of financial freedom that shifts their lives from a sense of ownership to one of stewardship. They still live their lives with the mentality that their money and possessions belong to them and not to God. They refer to them with the personal possessive pronouns ‘my’ and ‘mine.’ They have not

learned the liberty that comes from a total shift of ownership from self to God.

There were some wealthy Christians in the first century that Paul had to write and exhort about the stewardship of their money and material possessions. Like so many of us twenty-first century Christians in the West, they were selfishly consuming on themselves the abundance God had entrusted to them for the benefit and blessing of others. They too were living lives of conspicuous consumption rather than lives of conspicuous compassion. So Paul wrote these words of exhortation and instruction so that their giving would help balance the scales between their abundance and other's adversity:

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: ‘He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.’”

II Corinthians 8:13-15



Paul also instructed the young pastor Timothy to teach the principle of abundance and liberality to the wealthy members of his congregations:

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

I Timothy 6:17-19

That’s great investment advice for the first century or the twenty-first century! Every truly wise and wealthy Christian, including almost everyone in America, will be like those Magi who journeyed long and hard to find the Christ Child: “And they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and incense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

Have you discovered the Lord Jesus to the degree that He has captivated your time, talent and treasure? Are you still holding on to the treasure He has entrusted to your stewardship? Or have you too truly become a 'wise man' or 'wise woman' who is worshipping Him by opening your treasures and presenting them to Him for His honor and glory? You see, you will only open your treasures when you first open your heart to His absolute Lordship over every area of your life! That's where your liberation from the bondage of money and materialism will begin! The adventure of giving begins when the center of axis of your heart shifts from being your treasure to being His treasure (Matthew 6:21).



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\*\* For a fuller study of stewardship of your treasure, please refer to my books: *The Grace of Giving* and *Will A Man Rob God?*

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## **THE TIME OF SECURITY**

You and I are living in some of the most insecure times in human history. Paul gave a clear warning to Timothy:

“Mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having the form of godliness but denying it power.”

II Timothy 3:1-5

It sounds like reading this morning's newspaper or the summary of last night's newscast, doesn't it? You see, times have not changed, because man has not changed. Please note that right in the midst of the escalating evil that Paul wrote about, man will continue to be very religious. But it will only be the external shell or form of godliness with no authentic spiritual power to transform people's lives and behav-

ior. That kind of hollow religion will come about because of the rejection of God's truth. Paul described the spiritual devolution this way:

“For the time [*kairos*] will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” II Timothy 4:3-4

Rather than an upward evolutionary spiral from protoplasm to paradise, the Bible teaches that there will be a downward devolutionary spiral whereby evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, “...deceiving and being deceived” (II Timothy 3:13). Paul further described this downward spiritual and moral spiral to the Christians living in Rome:

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godliness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to

them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claim to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.”

Romans 1:18-25

There has never been a more accurate and relevant description of human societies worldwide than those words penned by the Apostle Paul! That slippery spiritual slope downward always begins when men

suppress the truth and exchange the truth of God for a lie. Once that rejection of God's revealed truth takes place, any society is doomed to ever-increasing degrees of depravity, debauchery, decay, and death! That's why the Bible says that the world will increasingly be characterized by insecurity rather than by security. And terrorism is but the latest expression of this human depravity!

But, Beloved, we Christians can live securely in an insecure world. That's because we know that our God is sovereign. That means that He is in absolute control of everything. As I often quote, "There is not a man, molecule or mouse that is outside of God's sovereign control!" *Therefore, our security is based on His sovereignty.*



**PRINCIPLE**  
**OUR SECURITY IS BASED UPON**  
**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY.**

Saints, our God is not sitting on His throne wringing His hands in anxiety over what is happening to His world! He has the devil on a leash that will only allow him so much running room. The devil and his legions of demons are held in check by the superior power of the Holy Spirit and God's angelic force. Neither de-

mons nor man can do anything outside of God's sovereign control. We may not always see His sovereignty manifest, but it is there. One day we will fully see and understand the mystery of God's sovereignty working in, through, around, and over all the depravity of man and the demonic manifestations of the kingdom of darkness! That knowledge alone is the only source of your spiritual, mental, and emotional security in an increasingly insecure world.

Therefore, let these words of assurance sink down deep within your spirit. Let them bring peace and security to your soul:

- "The Lord is a refuge, a stronghold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9
- "I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God. My times are in Your hands.'" Psalm 31:15
- "Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble." Psalm 41:1
- "What time I am afraid, I will trust in You." Psalm 56:3

- “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

There, my friend, is the answer to the BIG QUESTION: How can we have security in insecure times? We calm our souls with the promises of God’s Word. His Spirit and His Word remind us that our security is based upon His sovereignty – plus nothing else!

On the basis of that spiritual security alone, I exhort and encourage you to keep on keeping on, to continue “to fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:12), to synchronize your life with God’s *kairos* because of this principle: **God is good all the time. All the time God is good!**





## **KAIROS LIVING AND KAIROS GIVING**

As we begin to close this book on the subject of time, let's consider six ways God's *kairos* should impact our *chronos*.

### **1. EXILE LIVING**

First of all, we should develop the mentality of an exile here on earth – rather than that of a permanent resident. Millions of Christians live as though this life is all there is. While every authentic Christian has dual citizenship, most of us don't spend our time or money like it. We live for the NOW as though there is no afterlife.

We Christians have a natural citizenship in the country in which we were born. But the moment we are born again, we are given a heavenly citizenship (Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20). From that moment on, we are to seek to be good citizens of both kingdoms simultaneously. However, our highest allegiance is always to our heavenly citizenship. That's because it is an eternal citizenship while our natural citizenship is temporal. One is a *kairos* citizenship while the other is only a *chronos* citizenship. So once we get our eternal passport for heaven, we are to live as exiles on this earth. As the old Negro spiritual

says: "This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through." This world is just our temporary residency. That's why the Apostle Peter exhorted some Christians in the first century:

"...if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time [*chronos*] of your stay/exile here."

I Peter 1:17

It is timely to note that if you live as an exile here on earth, God's *kairos* will control your *chronos*. That's why the Bible refers to us as exiles, pilgrims, strangers and sojourners rather than citizens.

The original patriarch of our faith, Abraham, clearly understood this fact, and as a result lived by this pilgrim principle:

"By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, for he was looking forward to the city with

foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:9-10

Do you have an exile mentality that causes you to live by the pilgrim principle or do you live like this world is all there is? Oh, you may believe in heaven and may even have your heavenly passport through faith in Christ. But do you really live like it? Do you spend your time like you believe it? Many Christians give lip service to this principle, and in so doing, live like hell on the way to heaven! That’s the complete opposite of authentic exile living.

## **2. EXTREME LIVING**

If you have a true exile mentality, it will also result in extreme living. It is interesting to see how so many on-the-edge activities today are called Xtreme Sports or Extreme Adventures. Most are just for adrenaline junkies who have never discovered the real high of extreme Christian living!

If you want to experience authentic extreme living, just get serious about the Christian life! Move out of your comfort zone, and move into the danger zone of the Great Commission. When you do that you will find out what authentic extreme living is all about!

You will be challenged in every fiber of your being: spirit, soul and body! But you will also have the time of your life!

Because Paul understood the reality of lifelong spiritual warfare with an ever intensifying clash of cultures, he exhorted young Timothy with these timely words:

“But mark this: There will be terrible times [*kairos*] in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having the form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced.”

II Timothy 3:1-14

Jesus made a similar analysis in His Parable of the Sower and the Seed. He clarified and summarized it when He spoke about the good seed that fell on bad soil, which was as hard as a rock:

“Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing [*kairos*] they fall away.”

Luke 8:13

Without an extreme living mentality, we will always fall away when things get tough! That’s why our extreme righteousness must exceed the extreme ungodliness of the world around us. But at the intersection where they meet, “the fat is going to fly” and “garbage is going to hit the fan!” That’s exactly what extreme living is all about! We Christians, then, must be more extreme in spirituality than the world is extreme in sinfulness!

One of my favorite sermons to preach is on *Living Dangerously for the Kingdom of God*, based on these words of Paul – one of the most Extreme Christians of all time:

“...I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.”

II Corinthians 11:26

It is easy to see that the operative word here is – and it certainly isn't safety! Because Paul was worth his salt as a Christian, he constantly lived dangerously for the Kingdom of God!

What about you? Are you a dangerous person to the forces of evil? Are you a dangerous person to the kingdom of darkness? Are you so dangerous that the evil one tries to keep you in his crosshairs?

Tragically, too many of us Christians are more docile than we are dangerous! But when you get extreme for God, you become a dangerous disciple!

### **3. EDIFICATION LIVING**

Jesus summarized His Parables of the Kingdom with these words of instruction and exhortation to His disciples:

“Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Matthew 13:52

That simply means that we as Christian owners of our houses are to be bringing out of our storeroom a balance of both new treasures and old treasures for the edification, or building up, of the members of our household. This is especially true for Christian leaders who are the stewards of the Household of God.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time [*kairos*]? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”

Matthew 24:45-47

#### 4. EVANGELISTIC LIVING

Unquestionably the very heart of *kairos* living is evangelism. That's because winning the lost is the very heart of the Gospel since it is the very heart of God. Or to quote the Apostle Paul:

“...God our Savior, wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time [*kairos*].”

I Timothy 2:3-6

The Bible exhorts us to buy up every opportunity to share Christ and make Him known to the lost – and especially to the millions who are unreached, out-of-reach, under-reached, and untold. Reaching the unreached remains our highest calling and the supreme task of the church<sup>††</sup>. No matter how hard the task, we must never lose sight of this goal, let go of the Gospel plow, give in to fatigue, give over to discouragement, or give up to the enemy. Listen to Paul's

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<sup>††</sup> See my book, *Evangelism and Missions, the Supreme Task of the Church*.



words of exhortation to patience and persistence in the task of evangelism.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time [*kairos*] we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity/time [*kairos*], let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Galatians 6:9-10

Jesus used the same agricultural metaphor of sowing and reaping leading up to a great spiritual harvest:

“There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time [*kairos*] approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.”

Matthew 21:33- 34; Mark 12:2; Luke 20:10

As you read those verses, I hope you realize that you and I are privileged to be living in the greatest days of

spiritual harvest in the history of the Christian church! But most Christians are not vitally involved in the harvest. That's why Jesus said:

“Do not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest.’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even NOW the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.” John 4:34-36

## **5. EQUALITY LIVING**

“At this present time [*kairos*] your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be *equality*, as it is written: ‘He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.’”

II Corinthians 8:14-15

It is obvious that the first century Church, after the Day of Pentecost, understood and practiced the principle of equality. That's why we read:

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.”

*Acts 4:32-35*

When many Christians read those verses their minds cry out in objection: Communism! No, that was not Communism. It was *koinonia*, or Christian fellowship, based on the love and unity of the Spirit. This was not some kind of communalism that was imposed by the leaders of the early church on the members. It was an internal motivation of agape love, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to solve some of the inequity problems among the believers – and create more equality. This kind of agape living and giving won the attention of the watching world and brought great praise and thanksgiving to God. That’s why Paul wrote this about giving to meet the needs of some of the poorer saints in the Body of Christ:

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has

given you. Thanks be to God for His  
indescribable gift!”

II Corinthians 9:8 - 15

That describes a kind of first century equality living that most of us twenty-first century Christians know little or nothing about. But we ought to.

## **6. ENTREPRENEURIAL LIVING**

A person who is an entrepreneur is one who is engaged in enterprise. Webster defines enterprise this way: “A bold, hard, dangerous, important undertaking – requiring energy and initiative.” It means “ready to venture out, take risks, try something untried.”

I love those proactive words that describe the attitude and actions of a true entrepreneur: *bold, hard, dangerous, energy, initiative, venture out, take risks, try something untried*. Would that there were more Christians who had that kind of heart for spiritual entrepreneurialism. Paul wrote the early church to exhort them to that kind of proactive Christian living, rather than slumbering their way to mediocrity. These were quoted earlier, but read them again.

- “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine

on you.’ Be very careful, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity [or redeeming the time [*kairos*]] because the days are evil.”

Ephesians 5:14-16

- “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity, [or redeem the time [*kairos*]].”

Colossians 4:5

It is important to note here that the word used in this verse for redeeming the time or making the most of or buying up every opportunity, is the word *exagorazo*. It comes from the word *agorazo*, which means “to buy, to purchase” or “to redeem.” And that comes from the root word *agora* which was the word for marketplace. So God wants us to be marketplace Christians who are using our entrepreneurial skills for His profit and for our profit. It was to that end that Paul sounded the alarm to some sleepy saints in Rome:

“...understanding the present time [*kairos*]. The hour has come for you to

wake up from your slumber because your salvation is nearer now than when you first believed. The night is nearly over, the day is almost here.”

Romans 13:11-12

If God has blessed you with the entrepreneurial gifts of generating profits and creating wealth, then do it for His glory and for the good of others. That's when making money and turning a profit really gets exciting and rewarding because you are using your *chronos* to produce profits for your *kairos*! That's solid investment advice you can take to the bank!

What then are some of the key marks of *kairos* living and *kairos* giving? It is a life characterized by **exile living, extreme living, edification living, evangelistic living, equality living, and entrepreneurial living**. When we live and give that way, we will see ourselves as stewards and not as owners. Then, like the early Christians, we will live and give with the needs of others in mind. We will understand that our prosperity is for their poverty, our plenty is for their privation, our riches are for their relief, our abundance is for their adversity, our luxury is for their lack, our blessing is for their barrenness.

When we live out our *chronos* with that sense of *kairos*, the needy will be edified, the lost will be evangelized, we will be satisfied, and God will be glorified!





## CONCLUSIONS

Let me conclude this study with the question I asked at the beginning: *What time is it?* That is indeed the most important question of life – but only if you can properly tell time from God’s perspective. As we have seen, it is easy to learn to tell time from the perspective of *chronos*. You just have to look at your watch or clock. But to interpret *kairos*, you have to look at God’s spiritual timepiece, the Bible. Only God’s Word gives us an accurate divine revelation about time from God’s perspective. It is only through the Bible that we can interpret our *chronos* by God’s *kairos*.

One thing is for sure: From the Bible’s perspective, the time [*kairos*] is short (I Corinthians 7:29; Revelation 1:3; 22:10). In this study we have seen that from the perspective of the New Testament, we are definitely living in the “last days.” But contrary to what many people think, the phrase “last days” does not denote the end of the world. That is not a Biblical concept. But while this world will never end, it will be radically changed and transformed. Or as Peter expressed it:

“...long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? *You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.* That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with

His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

II Peter 3:5-10

While those verses might sound like an apocalyptic description of the end of the world, a close examination of the words reveals otherwise. This catastrophic destruction will purge the world by fire just like the flood did so by water. Just as the deluge in the days of Noah cleansed the world of all unrighteousness, so it will be with the conflagration by fire at the end of the age. It will be God’s radical judgment upon all forms of sin, rebellion, ungodliness and unrighteousness. It will literally be the *kairos* of God’s wrath. And once everything is removed that is contrary to the nature and purpose of God, a new heaven and a new earth will come down from heaven to replace this one.

Therefore, if there is a *kairos* coming of God’s fiery judgment, how should we live out our brief *chronos* here on earth? Peter’s answer could not be clearer: “You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

So between now and the end of the age, we can expect sin, evil, rebellion, wickedness and ungodliness

to increase and prosper! That's why Jesus said after His arrest: "This is your hour when darkness reigns" (Luke 22:53).

Then, as now, this is man's *chronos*, man's time, man's day, man's hour. But make no mistake about it, God's time is coming! It is often called in the Bible the "Day of the Lord," the "Day of God," or simply, "that Day" (Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1; Amos 3:14; 5:20; Zephaniah 1:14; Zechariah 14:1; I Corinthians 1:8; 3:13; 5:5; II Thessalonians 2:2; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 6:17; 16:14, etc).

And when the Lord's Day comes, man's day will end forever! At that time there will be no more *chronos*. As John succinctly expressed it: "Time will be no more" (Revelation 10:6; KJV).

The Bible assures us that Jesus Christ will return a second time (Hebrews 9:28; c.f., Matthew 16:27), which God will bring about in His own time [*kairos*]; (I Timothy 6:14-15). Jesus, Peter, Paul and John all likened His Second Coming to that of a thief who would come unexpectedly (Luke 12:39; I Thessalonians 5:2; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 16:15). Most of humanity will be caught totally off guard and totally

unprepared for His Second Coming, and they will lose everything as a result!

Therefore, God has a perfect will, a perfect plan, a perfect *kairos* when He will consummate all things in the Second Coming of Christ. As Paul expressed it:

“And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times [*kairos*] will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”

Ephesians 1:10

John said in His revelation: “the time [*kairos*] is near” (Revelation 1:3). So when Christ comes a second time the Bible assures us that, there will be no more time (Revelation 10:6). The *chronos* of human history will be over forever! All of the sand in the hourglass of time will have been fully expended. The last grain of sand to fall will consummate *chronos* forever!

What time is it then for God’s people? The answer is clear: “For it is time [*kairos*] for judgment to begin with the family of God,” (1 Peter 4:17). You see, when the

family of God has all of the same problems as the people of the world, we have lost the integrity of our witness! Our salt has become good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under the foot of man! Our light has become so dim and diffused that it is a poor reflection of the One who said, "I am the light of the world!" (John 8:12). The Body of Christ must get our act together so we will be prepared for His coming for His bride. The more judgment we go through now, the less we will have to go through then!

However, it is also a time for unshakable confidence! Why? Because we have an unshakable kingdom and an unchanging Christ! As the writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

So, regardless of the *chronos* you are living in, Jesus is the fixed *kairos* of life! Only Jesus Christ is the unchanging *kairos* to live by, yesterday, today, forever! Only the God of the Bible is the One "with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).

**What time is it?** It is time to synchronize your watches with God's! It is time to adjust your *chronos* to His *kairos*! It's time for the people of God to start living like Christians 24/7! It is time for the saints of

God to be more like those men of Issachar “who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (I Chronicles 12:32)

Therefore, as the Bible exhorts, it is God’s *kairos* for us to wake up from our sleep, lift up our eyes to the fields ripe for harvest, and look up for our redemption draws near!

It is the time for salvation, sanctification, service, and stewardship! So don’t dare read this book and then turn off the alarm or go back to take another cat nap! No more sleeping pills or sedatives! No more muscle relaxants!

As we conclude this study on time, I want to share with you a challenging little poem entitled “God’s Minute:”

I’ve only just a minute,  
only sixty seconds in it.  
Forced upon me, I can’t refuse it,  
I didn’t seek it, I didn’t choose it.  
I must suffer if I lose it;  
Give an account if I abuse it.  
Just a tiny little minute,  
But eternity is in it.

Anonymous

Let me also challenge you with the famous little rhyme of Rudyard Kipling, entitled *If*:

If you can fill the unforgiving minute with  
60 seconds worth of distance run –  
Yours is the earth and everything that's  
in it, and, what is more – you'll be a  
man, my son!

So, Saint of God, it's time to **wake up, get up, stand up, lift up, look up, speak up, and give up** – all for His Kingdom and glory!

Keeping time for the Kingdom,

J.L. Williams