

“Using The Time!”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Introduction:

1. We’ve Seen Over The Last Couple Of Weeks That Time Is Valuable!
 - We Need To Know The Time!
 - We Need To Redeem The Time!
 - But Now, How Will We Use Our Time?
2. How Do Most People Use / Spend Their Time?
 - **IE:** According To The American Time Use Survey (2007), The Average Working American Spends: 8.7 Hours Working / 7.6 Hours Sleeping / 2.6 Hours In Leisure And Sports / 1.2 Hours Caring For Others / 1.1 Hours In Household Activities / 1.1 Hours Eating & Drinking / With Only Another 1.7 Hours To Do Anything Else!
 - How Do You Use Your Time?
3. The Preacher (Probably King Solomon) Teaches Us About Using Our Time In One Of The Most Famous Passages About Time:
 - Ecclesiastes 3:1-14!
 - We See From These Verses That: ***God Has A Design For Time!***
 - And Your Time & My Time Can Be Filled With Many Different Events & Conditions In Life! But, How Will You Use Your Time?
 - Because ***God Has A Design For Time – We Must Use Our Time For The Him!***
 - But, How Do You Know If You Are Using Your Time For The Lord? ***Four Questions*** To Ask Yourself:

1. *How Do You Plan Your Time?*

- **IE:** Most Of Us Have Some Kind Of Schedule Throughout The Day – Either One We Make Or One Made For Us! Remember How Much Time It Took To Plan My College Schedule! How You Plan Your Time & Your Day Tells A Lot About How You Use Your Time – Whether Or Not You Are Using Your Time For The Lord!
- 3:1 - “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven!”
 - This Is A Universal Principle That Should Guide Our Lives & Our Plans!
- ***There Is A Plan For Time!***
 - “To Every Thing There Is A Season!”
 - “Every Thing” - Speaks Of Events & Opportunities In Life!
 - “Season” - Speaks Of A Set Or Determined / Appointed Time!
 - God Has A Plan For Time! For Life! For Events!
 - According To His Wisdom / Will / Work!
 - This Provides Us With God’s Perspective On Time!
- ***There Is A Time To Plan!***
 - “And A Time To Every Purpose Under The Heaven!”
 - “Purpose” - Speaks Of Pleasure Or Delight!
 - Man Has A Time To Plan!
 - To Do What He Desires & Delights To Do!
 - This Provides Us With Man’s Perspective On Time!
- You Need To Plan Your Time With Both Perspectives In View!
 - Remember: “Though Everything Is Certain With God, Nothing Is Certain With Man!” (Gill)
 - You Need To Know The Time – It Belongs To God!
 - You Need To Redeem The Time – That Belongs To You!
 - Then, You Need To Use The Time In The Way That God Has Planned For You!
 - **IE:** How Much Thought & Prayer Goes Into Your Daily Schedule? Acts 9:6 - “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Today? For You?
- God Has A Design For Time! How Will You Plan Your Time?
 - Plan Your Time For The Lord!

2. *How Do You Pursue Your Time?*

- One Thing We Know About Time Is That Time Changes! So Does Our Condition In Time! This Is The Point Of The Next 7 Famous Verses! The Conditions Of Time & Life Are Constantly Changing!

- 3:2-8 - "A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; / 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; / 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; / 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; / 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; / 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; / 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace!"

- What Do You Use Your Time For? What Do You Pursue With Your Time?

- The Temporary?

- 14 Pairs That Cover Nearly Every Condition & Event In Life! The Point Of Each Pair Is That These Conditions Can Change At Any Time!

- Your Flesh Can Change At Any Time! (Alive / Dead)

- "A Time To Be Born & A Time To Die!"

- Your Features Can Change At Any Time! (Growth)

- "A Time To Plant & A Time To Pluck Up What Which Is Planted!"

- Your Fitness Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Kill & A Time To Heal!"

- Your Functions Can Change At Any Time! (Jobs)

- "A Time To Break Down & A Time To Build Up!"

- Your Feelings Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Weep & A Time To Laugh!"

- Your Frame Can Change At Any Moment!

- "A Time To Mourn & A Time To Dance!"

- Those Deep Feelings That Cannot Be Hidden!

- Your Focus Can Change At Any Time! (Memorials)

- "A Time To Cast Away Stones & A Time To Gather Stones Together!" (Remember / Forget)

- Your Friendships Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Embrace & A Time To Refrain From Embracing!"

- Your Fortunes Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Get & A Time To Lose!"

- Your Fashions Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Keep & A Time To Cast Away!"

- Your Folly Can Change At Any Time! (Wrong / Right)

- "A Time To Rend & A Time To Sew!"

- Your Forbearance Can Change At Any Time! (Patience)

- "A Time To Keep Silence & A Time To Speak!"

- Your Favor Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time To Love & A Time To Hate!"

- Your Feuds Can Change At Any Time!

- "A Time Of War & A Time Of Peace!"

- How Many Focus On One Or Another Of These Things! But They Are Temporary & Fleeting & Can Change At Any Time! Even In 24 Hours – Remember Job? He Was "The Greatest Of All The Men Of The East" – With 7 Sons / 3 Daughters / 7K Sheep / 3K Camels / 500 Yoke Of Oxen / 500 Female Donkeys / And A Very Great Household – In 1 Day, He Lost It All!

- 3:9 - "What profit (advantage) hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?" –

Implied Answer: None! All Of These Things Can "Turn On A Dime!"

- Instead, Use Your Time To Pursue After:

- The Timeless!

- 3:10-11 - "I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. / He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:"

- Only The Timeless Is Of Eternal Value!

- Everything Else Is Futile! ("Travail" / "Exercised")

- Mark 8:36 - "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his

- own soul?"
- Only The Timeless Is Of Eternal Beauty!
 - "He Hath Made Every Thing Beautiful In His Time!"
- God Has A Design For Time! What Will You Pursue With Your Time?
 - The Temporary? Or The Timeless?
 - Pursue Your Time For The Lord!

3. ***How Do You Pass Your Time?***

- 3:12 - "I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. / And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God!"
 - When You Pursue The Timeless With Your Time, You Will Be Able To Pass The Time Properly! Of All Of The Various Conditions Of Your Life In Time, Not One Is Of Value In & Of Itself - "I Know That There Is No Good In Them" - It Is How You Use & Respond To Time That Brings Them Value!
 - How Should You Respond & Pass Your Time?
 - Is This What You Are Known For?
- ***Be Glad!***
 - "But For A Man To Rejoice!" / Joy & Contentment!
- ***Be Good!***
 - "And To Do Good In His Life!" / Righteousness!
- ***Be Generous!***
 - "Eat And Drink And Enjoy The Good Of All His Labour!"
- ***Be Grateful!***
 - "It Is The Gift Of God!" / Thankfulness!
- How Is It Even Possible To Pass Your Time Properly - In This Way?
 - It Isn't - Except Through Using Your Time & Living Your Life For The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 - "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. / See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. / Rejoice evermore. / Pray without ceasing. / In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you!"
- God Has A Design For Time! How Will You Pass Your Time?
 - Pass Your Time For The Lord!

4. ***How Do You Preserve Your Time?***

- Most People Want Their Life & Work To Last! Even Beyond Their Own Time! **IE:** This Is Why Even Today, When Someone Dies, They Can Have Their Body Frozen & Preserved Through Cryonics - For Those Who Think That Death Itself Is Reversible & Want To Come Back To Life Again! According To The Cryonics Institute, It Is "Your Last Best Chance For Life - And Your Family's!" Why Would Someone Pay \$28,000 For This?
 - God Has Instilled This Desire In Man! But He Has Also Made It Impossible To Accomplish On Their Own!
- 3:10b - "Also he hath set the world (eternity) in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end!"
 - You Can Only Preserve Your Time & Your Life When "Your Life Is Hid With Christ In God!" (Colossians 3:3)
 - Because:
- 3:14 - "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him!"
 - ***Whatever God Does Will Be Permanent!***
 - "It Shall Be Forever!"
 - ***Whatever God Does Will Be Perfect!***
 - "Nothing Can Be Put To It, Nor Any Thing Taken From It!"
 - ***Whatever God Does Will Be Persuasive!***
 - "That Men Should Fear Before Him!"

- God Has A Design For Time! How Will You Preserve Your Time?
- By Making Sure That Your Time Is Used By & For The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. How Do You Use Your Time?
 - Are You Focused On The Constantly Changing Conditions Of Your Life?
 - Then Your Time – Your Precious Time – Is Being Wasted!
 - All Of These Conditions Will Come & Will Go!
2. Use Your Time To Pursue The Timeless!
 - Colossians 3:1-4 - “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. / Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. / For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. / When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory!”
 - This Is How You Should Plan Your Time!
 - This Is How You Should Pursue Your Time!
 - This Is How You Should Pass Your Time!
 - This Is How You Will Preserve Your Time!
 - Hosea 10:12 - “For It Is Time To Seek The Lord!”
 - This Is God’s Design For Your Time!

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