

Knowing the Time—Getting Prepared!

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[Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above; Luke 21:31 When you see things happening; Romans 13:11 Knowing the time; John 17:3 This is life eternal; James 4:14 Your life—a mist; 2 Corinthians 6:2 Now is the accepted time; Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood;

Romans 14:12 All give an account to God; 1 John 4:8 God is love; 1 John 5:3 to love God, keep His commands; Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death; Lamentations 3:23 God's mercies are new every morning; Deuteronomy 11:16 Be aware of deception; Luke 21:8 Be not deceived: vs 11 fearful sights and great signs; vs 19 Patience possesses your soul]

It is all too easy to be focused on things of this world—*earthly* concerns can easily crowd out *spiritual* concerns. We are told, however AV Colossians 3:2 “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

The leaves of the trees are beginning to open—WEY Luke 21:31 “So also, when you see these things happening, you may be sure that the Kingdom of God is near.”

AV Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Time goes by quickly today—even though it has not sped up, but just appears that way because our lives are so filled with so many things,

activities, and distractions that our spiritual concerns can easily get crowded out and replaced with much less important matters.

Our day should be filled with getting to know **God** and learning how *He* wants us to live. AV John 17:3 “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

During the first millennium—from the birth of Jesus to 1,000 A.D.—people invented or discovered a multitude of things—block printing; magnetic compass; steel—and we wonder if these inventions have pointed people to our Creator, or has it fed the egos of those who discovered them?

During the second millennium—from 1,000 A.D. to the present—the printing press; telegraph; telephone; computers; satellites; the Internet; DNA; air travel; mobile phones; Artificial Intelligence; and nuclear weapons have been invented. Science is just figuring out how *God* made things—as it is He who supplied the materials and knowledge.

People on earth should be getting closer to God—but unfortunately, they are getting further from Him. By seeking things of the world for their pleasure and benefit, they forget their *spiritual* concerns and eternal life in Heaven.

Seeking worldly interests eventually brings disappointment and heartache—if only people realized this, they would decide differently.

All the famous people who discovered new lands—all the famous artists, inventors, scientists, musicians, politicians, presidents, and kings—have all passed on. We wonder if they had a second chance would they live differently?

The situation is this: **One life on earth; One passing to another—One long eternity!**

NIV James 4:14 “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then

vanishes.” That make us think and with God’s help, decide to dedicate our life to Him.

Our *time* on earth should be time getting to know *God* and drawing *closer* to Him.

Everything we *say* and *do* and *decide* is to bring honor and glory to Him—praising Him for the knowledge, the ability, and the opportunity He has given us to *do* what we *do*!

Now in the 21st century, the population of the world has dramatically increased to over *eight billion* people (8,019,876,189)!

And God wants to see every one of those souls saved—*everyone*—but there is a decision they need to make! They must see *their* responsibility to *accept* God’s Truth and to *live* it every day with His help. We just pray that they will—as God sees a willing heart.

The last century seems to have accelerated, but there *is* an end to it all—when everyone will stand before the Creator and answer for the life they lived. Will it be eternal life; or eternal death—it *is* a momentous issue and decision!

The choice to change direction if we are going in the *wrong* one is a choice to make without delay! AV 2 Corinthians 6:2 “Now is the accepted time; Now is the day of salvation.”

Many in the world do not give a thought about being prepared for the next life and never give a moment to consider if they have allowed God to teach them what they need to know. They do *not heed* the signs and have *no thought* about preparation.

The world seems obsessed with trying to force people or nations to live a certain way—it is the worst form of human efforts to control those who live differently.

The world wants to attach their identity to their nation or homeland, *more* than their attachment to God and His eternal home. Their flag, their money, and their sport show their loyalty to them.

God must be *first* in all that people do, or disaster will result. The world has dismissed the oracles, prophecies, and warnings of God, even though He has written His eternal Truth in Scripture for His creation to be informed how to live to receive eternal life!

Many *wars* have claimed many *lives*—it seems that people have no value of human life—but God has given everyone a conscience—in the deep recesses of the mind, people *know* it is *wrong* to take another life.

NKJV Genesis 9:6 “*Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed.*” And on Judgment Day AV Romans 14:12 “*Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*”

God is merciful—giving everyone much time to *see* their mistakes; to *know* what is important in life—He has given time to repent and turn back to Him—because “*God is love*” 1 John 4:8; 16. Now it is *our* turn to love *Him*—AV 1 John 5:3 “*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.*”

God is just looking for a heart of humility in us—one that truly *desires* His Truth above all else; a heart that is *taken up with* pleasing *Him* and doing *His* will—instead of being *taken up with* things and interests on earth that have *no* eternal value.

Every life on earth ends at some point, and all will give an account to the One who gave them life in the first place.

We can be eternally thankful and grateful for God’s mercy and grace—because AV Romans 6:23 “*The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Life on earth is brief and soon over, but eternal life is forever and never ending.

God created this life—and the brief time of it is part of His plan—a plan He put in place to

get us *out* of this life and prepared to go *in* an eternal kingdom—that plan includes a huge *decision* for us to make!

If anyone is not ready to meet the Judge of everyone, they cannot blame God—it is *not* His fault.

It is the *individual* who disobeyed God; who did *not heed* the plan He put in place—a plan that includes *loving* and *forgiving* others—and trusting Him in faith for food, finances, peace, protection, health, healing, and being prepared to meet His Son Jesus.

God has forgiven us of so many *mistakes*; of so many bad *choices*; of so many wrong *decisions*—and He will forgive us for allowing ourselves to be so *distracted* by things of the world instead of being *attracted* to His Truth—for *that* we thank and praise His Name every day—His mercies AV Lamentations 3:23 “*Are new every morning.*”

All who choose to sin must know there are consequences for that choice. God has given everyone the only option to be *right* with Him and to be *accepted* into His kingdom when this life is over—it is by *faith* and *trust* in the atoning *Blood* He shed for us.

Faith in His sacrifice is the only way to stand before Him cleansed of sin and right with Him.

AV Deuteronomy 11:16 “*Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods.*” AV Luke 21:8 “*Take heed that ye be not deceived.*” *Knowing the time* becomes ever more important.

News reports tell us of earthquakes, famines, political conflict AV Luke 21:11 “*Pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*”

Jesus said we will be persecuted because of our faith in Him. We will be hated by many—

but NKJV Luke 21:19 “*By your patience possess your souls.*”

It is all explained in God’s Word—and it will all come true, just as He said. There have been many earthquakes and devastating storms—Andrew 1992; Katrina 2005; Super Storm Sandy 2012; and Hurricane Ian 2022 caused \$113 billion dollars in damages—all were destructive events!

They can be seen as wake-up calls for people to *repent* and turn *back* to God—we must recognize the *times* and ask God to *prepare* us for His kingdom.

All who have given their heart and life to Jesus will face persecution—and even if it means being faithful unto death, it will be worth it all. We will rejoice for an eternity!

Being prepared to meet Jesus and to not be ashamed at His coming, should take *priority* over everything else!

It is *time* to *know* the *time*—and *heed* the *times* in which we are living—AV Romans 13:11 “*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*”

Jesus warned AV Luke 21:31 “*When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*”

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www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3121 0324 24A