

# Time Is of the Essence!



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Our lives are controlled by the clock—from getting up in the morning, to retiring for the night. We often say: *Time goes by so quickly; The holidays went by like a flash; There is never enough time to do what I want to do; Before you know it, we will be planning summer vacation!*

Our life is controlled by *time*—but a day will come when *Time will End*, and the Lord will return. We *must* be spiritually aware—that it is *high time* to give more attention to our spiritual life and spending the time God has given us on things of spiritual value. We must *use* the time we have in this life, to allow God to prepare for the next.

Romans 13:11 *“Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”* Time is of the essence—the hour is late—no one can afford to let the affairs of this world take up too much of our time and attention—at the expense of our spiritual interests—no one!

The world today has more *distractions, temptations, and enticements* than ever before—we need to be that much more *aware* of Satan’s

schemes to *distract, tempt, and entice* the unsuspecting. It is all too easy to *love* something of this world *more* than we should.

God has spoken—1 John 2:15 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* It is always being aware of not allowing something, someone, or some interest to take up too much of our time.

The *love of money* is dominant today—it controls the actions and intentions of just about everyone in the world—and Satan can use that *love for money* to deceive believers from remaining on the path of humility and faith in Christ. We must be aware.

1 John 2:16 *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* Staying in the *will of God* is vital!

***It was said: We should be living as if Jesus died on the Cross yesterday; rose from the tomb this morning; and is coming back this afternoon. It makes us think about how quickly time has sped by, and that we do not have all the time in the world for God to prepare us for His kingdom.***

Everything of this world will eventually be left here—if some interest or some activity has no spiritual value, it will end up being a waste of our time—everything of this world will one day be burned, destroyed, or left behind. We must be aware of the late hour and know that Jesus is ready to return Romans 13:11 *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand.”*

God is merciful and loving, so He gives time to repent, but a time will come—and only God knows—when this world reaches a point, and its *time* will be up. God will then give the command to reap the harvest of the earth. Revelation 14:15 *“And*

*another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”*

Because of His grace and goodness, God wants everyone to return to Him, but they must *choose* to do that. The mercy of God allows wicked people and sinners to still be living today—He is giving them time to repent, but at some point, time will end, and they will not have that opportunity. Romans 2:4 *“Despiseest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”*

Sin and wickedness are rampant today—by people who are made in the image of God, but it seems that they do *not* care. Many treat animals better than humans. Every soul matters to *God*, and every soul should matter to *us*. A *shown* lesson is so much better than a *told* lesson. Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

When there are only two minutes left in a basketball game, and the home team is down eight points, they pick up the pace; intentionally use up the clock; and they shoot three pointers. And time will end for many on earth. It’s later than we think! As a believer in Jesus, we must pick up the pace while we still have time and be *sure* we are *in* the will of God.

Romans 13:12 *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”*

James 4:14 *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”* At some point, Jesus will return, and everyone on earth will pass into eternity—the time to be *ready* for that day, is *now!*

If a country knew on Thursday that a tsunami would hit their shores on Friday, they would prepare and warn others of the impending danger. There are stones on a hillside in Japan, warning people not to build homes below a certain line, as tsunamis have destroyed everything below that point. One town had no loss of life in the 2011 tsunami because they *heeded the warning*.

Life goes by like a flash—that is why Jesus said Mark 13:33 “*Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*” 34 *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.* 35 *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:* 36 *Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.* 37 *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*

If we *heed* the warnings on earth, then we should also *heed* the warnings from Heaven. When the tsunami was coming in Japan, sirens sounded—warning of approaching disaster—those who *heeded* and took *action* were saved. And that is *our* choice—what do we do with the warnings? Psalms 90:12 “*Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*”

All believers and non-believers are living eternal beings. When time ends and God gives the command, all people on earth will either be alive and worshipping before the throne of God forever, or they will be alive and suffering in Hell forever. 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

The thief on the cross came to his last breath—but he made a right choice and was promised eternity by the Savior Himself. Jesus

sounded the warning of coming judgment all during His ministry. Jesus often emphasized the need to Matthew 3:2 “*Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*”

Jesus wanted everyone to hear the Truth—about God’s divine power to heal, protect, supply, deliver, and save anyone of any nation—if they will *heed* the warnings, *believe* His message, and *trust* in Him on earth. Due to the ministry of Jesus, there is a forgiven thief that knows more about eternity than many millions still on earth. Luke 23:43 “*To day (Jesus told him) shalt thou be with me in paradise.*”

Keeping our faith and trust on the atonement sacrifice of Jesus, becomes ever more crucial, as we see signs of the times and the return of Christ approaching. Every hour of the day, we are to be Hebrews 12:2 “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

The devil will try to deceive us and have us put our faith, our trust, or our dependence on a substitute of the world—instead of keeping our faith, trust, and dependence on the divine power of God. Faith in God becomes more important with every passing day. 2 Timothy 4:7 “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”

**All too many people spend all too much time on things that have no eternal significance. Time is racing by so quickly that we cannot waste our time on things that have zero eternal significance—when the time comes, and we stand before the throne of God. Everyone will be in eternity a whole lot longer than any time spent here on earth.**

The apostle Peter denied Jesus three times, but that was not the end of the story. He realized

his mistake and Luke 22:62 “*And wept bitterly.*” He made changes and corrections and finished well for the Lord Jesus. The apostle Peter wrote many inspired verses that help us on the path of faith in Christ.

1 Peter 1:3 “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*” 4 *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* 5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

Someday—and it is *later than we think*—Time will end, therefore anything not connected to our spiritual life and eternal life, will be time wasted. We must be *careful* how we live, talk, decide, and treat people around us—always setting a right example for those in our home and for everyone—Ephesians 5:16 “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*”

By God’s grace, let us concentrate on what will matter when *time is no more*. We could make a list of things in our life that have *no* eternal significance—if we made this list, it would help us focus on things that *do* matter. 2 Corinthians 5:10 “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*”

Forgiving everyone; loving others and trusting God every day for everything—has always been good!



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