

## REDEEMING THE TIME

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, Massachusetts  
October 18, 1964

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-15

### Introduction:

In the book of Ecclesiastes we read as follows in respect to time: Ecc.3:1-18 –

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill and a time to heal’  
a time to break down and a time to build up;  
a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep and a time to cast away;  
a time to rend and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence and a time to speak;  
a time to love and a time to hate;  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

The Greeks: all things must return to their origin, suffering punishment  
“according to the order of time.”

Fourth Gospel: eternal life is the highest good, which is ever present in Christ.

Kierkegaard: pointed to the infinite significance of every moment as the “now”  
for decision.

Time is our destiny; time is our hope.

I. One of the mysterious things about time is its power to devour everything within its sphere.

A. The flux of time is a fearful thing. The past is gone and dead.

(1) The science of archeology studies the remains of ancient civilizations –

The ruins of Qûmran

The pyramids of Egypt

This is true of all civilizations and peoples.

- (2) We come from a past which is no more and go into a future which is not yet. The past is present only in memory. The future only in anticipation. Only the present is ours. Yet when we try to understand the present, we notice that it has no reality. It is a present without extension, in which future is constantly become the past. The present disappears every moment we try to grasp it. So we have neither the past, the present, nor the future. Time is like a dream.

## II. Another aspect of time is its power to receive eternity.

- A. Today we are mainly interested in chronological time:
- Statistics on longevity
  - We can even reach the age of 150-175 if science has its way
  - Leisure time
- B. The Bible does not measure time by length of days or years. The Bible speaks of time as God's time, and the time of opportunity.
- (1) There is time when something should be done: Harvest time is not sowing time.
- (2) Today is the day of salvation and judgment: Isaiah – creation of the nation; Hope.
- (3) *Cry the Beloved Country* by Allan Paton.
- Provide a dam, as specialist in agriculture
  - Rebuild their church
  - Opportunity to break down barriers
  - Opportunity to renew hope
  - Opportunity to experience salvation.

## C. Jesus and Time ... Hope

*"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your ears."*

*"This is the acceptable year of the Lord."*

John 3:16 – eternal life now *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life."*

*"The one who believes in the Son has eternal life."*

## III. Another aspect of the mystery of time is that time makes us look at the future:

- Time does not return; it does not repeat itself.
- It runs forward toward consummation.

- A. It always creates a new thing – There is always an open page every day.

“The infinite significance of every moment of time is this: in it we decide, and are all decided about, with respect to our eternal future.”

Conclusion:

To redeem the time means:

- (1) To understand the will of the Lord;
- (2) To praise and thank Him;
- (3) To love one another -- This is a foretaste of things to come.

(Eph.5:15-20) *“Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of time (seizing the opportunities) because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all our heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.”*

(Ps.31:14) *“But I trust in thee, O Lord.  
I say: Thou art my God!  
My times are in thy hand.”*

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