

What time is it?
2 Tim. 4:6-8; Eccl. 3:1-14

Date: June 28th, 2020

Place: Faith EBC

Read – Eccl 9:7-10; Col. 3:17, 23-24

OT Perspective on time,

Let's consider Abraham's life, Gen. 18:10.

Let's consider David's life, 2 Sam. 7.

Let's consider Solomon's life, Eccl. 12:13-14.

Let's consider Esther's life, Esther 4:14.

Jesus' Perspective on Time,

With the coming of the Lord Jesus, a unique time had come, Mark 1:15; Gal. 4:4.

The old age has gone and the new age has come, 2 Cor. 5:17.

The wedding at Cana, John 2:4.

The woman at the well, John 4:21-23.

The resurrection of the dead, John 5:25-28.

His time for leaving had not yet come, John 7:1-10, 30; 8:20.

The time of His departure was at hand, Matt. 26:18; John 13:1; 17:1-5.

At the appointed time, Christ died for sinners, Romans 5:6.

The time for His exaltation, Phil. 2:8-11.

Paul's Perspective on Time,

The stoning of Stephen, Acts 9.

At Antioch, Acts 13.

First imprisonment in Rome, Phil. 1:21; 3:10ff.

Second imprisonment in Rome, 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

Now is the time, now is the day of salvation, 2 Cor. 6:2; Isa. 49:8.

The time is short, 1 Cor. 7:29.

Make the most of every opportunity, Eph. 5:15-16; Col. 4:5.

Do all the good we can to all the people -now, Gal. 6:10.

Maintain perspective - now, Romans 8:18.

Pray at all times, Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 4:17.

“Death is the believer's last act of faith and greatest act of worship... It reminds us that unless one's life is lived as a sacrifice of worship to God (Rom. 12:1), one's death will not be an act of worship.”¹

Paul concludes with –

1. I have fought the good fight, cp. 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12, 20.
2. I have finished the course, cp. Acts 20:24; John 19:30.
3. I have kept the faith, cp. 1 Tim. 1:19; 5:8; 6:21; 2 Tim. 3:8.

Timothy's Perspective on Time,

Remember the times, cp. Acts 14:6-20; 2 Tim. 3:11.

As he read this letter, he reflected on several things –

- His own proneness to fear
- Paul's challenge to be willing to suffer
- Paul's challenge to be willing to preach at all times
- Timothy too is to fight the good fight, cp. 1 Tim. 6:12.
- Paul is finishing well, I too need to live well to finish well
- His own anticipation of meeting His Saviour and be crowned with righteousness for a life well lived.

Conclusion

Who are you being mentored by? Who are you mentoring? Time is of the essence.

Many of us have watched others leave this life. Some left this life suddenly, not recognizing the time. Some left this life suddenly, but were ready. They left us an example as to how to live and how to meet our Saviour. What time is it in your life? Are you ready for a sudden departure?

The Lord encourages those who are living prepared that He is coming soon, however, His words are also words of warning for those who aren't prepared for a sudden departure and find themselves ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Paul didn't want Timothy to be ashamed when he met the Lord. He wanted Timothy to stay the course, maintain perspective with the prospect of not having Paul around.

¹ John A. Kitchen, *The Pastoral Epistles for Pastors* (The Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications, 2009), 442.