

God's Schedule and Ours

God is the Lord of time and space. He shows us the things we can do, and gives us the time and resources to do them. The problem is that we replace His priorities with ours, and we end up wasting valuable precious time. Of course it's never happened to you. Or has it?

A man was praying to God.
He said, "God?"
God responded, "Yes?"
And the guy said, "Can I ask a question?"
"Go right ahead."
"God, what is a million years to you?"
God said, "A million years to me is only a second." The man wondered.
Then he asked, "God, what is a million dollars worth to you?"
God said, "A million dollars to me is a penny."
So the man said, "God can I have a penny?"
And God cheerfully said,
"Sure!.....just a second."

So as we sit here scratching our heads about this one, we would do well to examine how we use time, where we use it, and how much of it we waste in pursuits like the guy trying to bargain with God. Over and over again people have done this, and over and over we have skipped out on our part of the bargain.

Maybe we have an illness or difficulty in our lives. We promise God that if he helps us get better, we will serve him for the rest of our lives. But as soon as we get better, we forget him, and go on to live our lives in our time and with our priorities rather than his. He has to be sad about this. Humans think they are so smart, when they know nothing at all.

Think about the things you can do today for other people to be blessed in the far away future. Build good things. Plant good words and works. Be a part of churches and other groups which help others and guide us to spend our time more wisely and in ways that are beneficial to God and others. We are here in time for just a brief moment. God will walk with others thousands of years from now, just as he walks with us. Warren Buffet wrote, "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." I think he gets it.

Even Christians can get confused about time, and fret about others when they should be looking at themselves. Faith and love will go on without us. But God would prefer they didn't.

"WHERE is my SUNDAY paper?"

The irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demands to know where her Sunday edition is.

"Madam," says the newspaper employee, "Today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY!"

There is quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she is heard to mutter... "Well!!". that explains why no one was at church TODAY either."

Perhaps time will become more valuable to us as we get older. It is sad that most wait until the years are far gone before they get this. Time shrinks as we get older. The days pass faster. The months and years fly by. And where have we gone? What have we done?

"Days were plentiful and cheap when I was young. Like penny candy. I always had a pocketful—and spent them casually. Now my supply is diminished, and their value has soared. Each one becomes worth its weight in the gold of dawn. Suddenly I live in unaccustomed thrift, cherishing hours the way lovers prize moments. Even at that, when the week is ended, it seems I've gone through another fortune. A day doesn't go as far as it used to." ~ Dewey Gill

God reminds us again and again about time. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. God has made everything beautiful in its time." The words and implications are clear, if we take the time to find them.

So don't waste the time God has given you a moment longer. Start today for church. Cherish the conversations you have with others. Never take for granted another sunrise or sunset, a gentle breeze, or a slice of watermelon. Be early in your faith endeavors.

William Shakespeare, who wrote millions of words which are still spoken and presented today, knew the value of time. Plays and performances require perfect timing. "Better three hours too soon," he writes, "than a minute too late.

Think about the brief time it has taken you, dear reader, to walk through this column. Maybe God will give you his appreciation of time. Maybe you will change the way you spend it.

God has a schedule for all of us. He waits until we find it. Sometimes he gently reminds us. Sometimes it takes a two by four. The prayer is that you will find it today.