

## Timing

Sometimes it depends on how you ask the question as to what the answer might be. I was saying the other day that I had eaten a cinnamon bun the night before, and that it was the only one I had had in a year, bragging on my diet. But then the question came. How many cinnamon buns have you eaten in the last 24 hours. The answer is the same, but it looks a lot different and the perspective is totally the opposite.

Life for all of us is all about timing. The question is not whether you have believed in Jesus Christ, but when comes about. God wants all people to believe, but many put it off until it is too late.

God has a plan for our lives, and plans for the world. Sometimes we forget that phrase, “in the fullness of time” that is in God’s word, and try to act as if we know the right timing, or like we know better than God. Accepting God’s timing and plans is something which has first to be learned, then accepted in life before it happen.

Someone once asked an elderly woman her favorite Scripture verse. She replied, “And it came to pass.”

“And it came to pass? But that doesn’t mean anything.”

“Yes it does,” she answered. “I know that whenever a trial comes, it doesn’t come to stay; it comes — to pass. It’s not going to be around forever.”

Now it may be true that her understanding of, “It came to pass,” is a bit odd. But, I must say the lady was on to a Bible truth anyway!

By the way, “And it came to pass” occurs 396 times in the King James Bible! The phrase actually means something like, “It happened.” And every time, it was something which happened at the right time, in God’s timing rather than those of the world.

The Bible says in one of those instances that it came to pass that when the angels had gone away, the shepherds said to one another, let’s go to Bethlehem and see [Jesus who had been born there]. The coming of Jesus came to pass in the fullness of time, when the stars were aligned, when the world was ready, when God had planned it.

Bethlehem is a tiny town with a rich and varied history of God’s actions. Thousands of years before Jesus came, two women came to Bethlehem. Because of their vision and faith, the whole city was moved.

“So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?” Ruth 1:19

Is your whole city moved toward God because of you? Have you found the time and the timing to take a stand for God, or are you still waiting for the right time? Are you doing all the things the world wants you to do with family, friends, money, and time, or are you doing the things God has planned for them at the fullness of time for you?

Yogi Berra once said, "You don't have to swing hard to hit a home run. If you got the timing, it'll go." You don't have to possess all the resources needed, big muscular arms of faith, or a baseball bat which will hit a home run every time.

You just have to swing at the right time. God will take care of the rest.

*The story is told of a group of women that met for Bible study. While studying in the book of Malachi, chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women and they wondered how this statement applied to the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out more about the process of refining silver, and to get back to the group at their next Bible study. The following week, the woman went to watch a silversmith at work. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames were the hottest as to burn away all the impurities. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the entire time the silver was being refined. The man answered yes, and he had to keep his eyes on it the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it." Tim Harrison*

That's what God waits to do with us. He refines us, waits for the time until he sees his image in us. It's all about timing.