

Time in a Bottle?

While at the hospital the other day, I got in this discussion with a few people about Daylight Savings Time – Which by the way is Sunday, so you'll want to turn your clocks ahead (Spring forward, Fall back) before going to bed Saturday night! Any way we're talking about it how it appears that some people want us to get to a standardized time for the entire nation... Which led to a discussion about getting up and driving to work at 7 a.m. on the East Coast, but on the West Coast you're having to get up and drive to work while it's still dark and won't get light out for nearly 3-4 more hours – Talk about depressing? No, this is not a thought about/against standardized time zones...

But then this morning after I dropped off the kids at school and headed in to the office, the song by Jim Croce was playing in mind – Some of you who are my age or older will remember the song I'm talking about...

*If I could save time in a bottle
The first thing that I'd like to do
Is to save every day
Till eternity passes away
Just to spend them with you*

*If I could make days last forever
If words could make wishes come true
I'd save every day like a treasure and then,
Again, I would spend them with you*

*But there never seems to be enough time
To do the things you want to do
Once you find them
I've looked around enough to know
That you're the one I want to go
Through time with*

Okay, so this isn't a thought about Jim Croce or that song either – But, it does lead me to these thoughts: How am I spending my time? Do I spend my time on that which has eternal significance? Or, that which “just kills time”? Am I spending my time wisely? Or spending it foolishly? Do I make time? Or do I take time for granted? Does it seem like you have all the time in the world? Or, is time running out?

One dictionary (Encarta) defines “time” as the following: “a system of distinguishing events, period with limits, method of measuring intervals, minute or hour, time as causative force, moment something occurs, unallocated period, period with particular quality, appointed moment, closing time, interval, historical period, the here and now...” and sixteen other definitions as well.

The Bible mentions the word “time” over 720 times (no pun intended)

“[the] men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...” (1 Chronicles 12:32)

[Mordecai] sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14)

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)

Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.” (Revelation 22:10-11)

Here’s my prayer:

Heavenly Father, you are the Maker and Creator of time. Without you there would be no past, present or future; no spring, summer, fall or winter; no morning, afternoon, evening or nighttime; no sowing or reaping. Without you there would be no days, months or years; no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate. Because you have given us this tremendous gift of time, we have the chance to dream and act, to set goals and pray, to work and rest, to try hard and play, to reverence and worship, to love and cherish. Heavenly Father, too often we take time for granted or waste it, we refuse to make time a priority for those we love. Please help us to see time as you see it, and use it more like you created it for: to be able to tell the difference between what is essential and what is marginal, what is merely urgent and what is really important, what is our duty and what can be left to others, what is appropriate now and what will be more relevant later. Help us all Heavenly Father to be as the men of Issachar: who truly understand the times and knew what you want us to do!

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ IS All!
Pastor Mark