

# THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

**T**ime is the most precious commodity on planet earth. Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time. Remember Queen Elizabeth's last words: "All my possessions for a moment of time."

In the last decade, according to the *Scientific American*, life expectancy for a man was 73.4 years and 80.1 years for a woman. In the long run we are only here for a short dash.

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. Time is life. *World* magazine has a regular feature, "Man Knows Not His Time." That's a quote from Ecclesiastes 9:12. The newly deceased, whether saints or sinners, are the ones who make that feature.

David confessed, "My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:15). Well, so are yours and mine. Circle Psalm 89:47 in your Bible. "Remember how short my time is." Time and time again the phrase "from this time forth" appears in Psalms. Determine that "from this time forth" you will do a better job of managing the time of your life.

I stand amazed at how quickly time has flown. When I was 20 I thought little of time. When I turned 30 I began to get uneasy. My 40th was a wake-up call and number 50 hit me like a ton of bricks. At 60 I merely sighed. Friends, "it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

This magazine will turn 25 next year. Don DeWalt had only seven years to publish *One Body*. Our Lord Jesus Christ had only three-and-a-half years to do His work on earth. Pray this prayer: Dear Lord, "teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Amen.

Each morning we awake with what Arnold Bennett called "twenty-four hours of the unmanufactured tissue of the universe of your life." No one gets any more and no one gets any less. How we use that time may well determine where we go when time is no more. "You cannot kill time without injury to eternity" (Henry David Thoreau).



I, for one, do not intend to merely mark my time. At the same time I do not wish to squander valuable time arguing over issues that fall into the realm of "doubtful things." Too many are like the ancient Athenians who assembled every day and "spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). Talk is not cheap. It can rob you of one of your greatest possessions—time.

It is past time to move on from some heated discussions and unholy distractions. I love the lyrics of that old hymn "Rise Up, O Church of God" (William P. Merrill). "Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings." Don't waste your time tilting at windmills. Move on to things that are higher and nobler "until we all attain to the unity of the faith."

At the same time it is time to take an unrelenting stand on things that matter for eternity. Sin needs to be vigorously opposed and matters of salvation should never be negotiated. Our sin is why Christ had to die and our salvation is what He accomplished on the cross!

The ruin and redemption of man is the double theme of Scripture and we should spend the bulk of our time putting down sin (not each other) and lifting up the Savior (not ourselves).

Do not use up your precious time trying to dictate how you think some brother or sister in Christ should live their life. "To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand" (Romans 14:4). Why spend hours and days and months and years judging someone whom God has clearly received? Do not write off or write up those whom God has written down in His blessed Book of Life!

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The time is always right to do what is right." And the right thing to do—the righteous thing to do—is to use your time right. Say with me, "From this time forth I shall make the very best use of my time—because time is life!"

**In the long run  
we are only here  
for a short dash.**