

**WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, September 14, 2021**  
**Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN**

**“There Is a Time for Everything”**

**READING:** Ecclesiastes 3:1, 9-14 – There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...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. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

When I was young, you could never have convinced me that someday I would say with real feeling and absolute truth, “I have more money than time.” You know how it was when you were in your twenties and just getting started in the world: there never seemed to be enough money to cover all the things that came at you. Back then, needing two new tires for the car was absolutely frightening. You drove the old ones until they were bald, maybe even dangerously bald. But now at 67, with the kids out on their own and salaries at the high end of experience, two new tires are just a minor annoyance and not reason to overhaul the budget for the year.

Time! There never seems to be enough time. There are always more things I could do, should do, but can't get to. And a month is gone so fast it seems incredible. Take today, for instance. It's already the 14<sup>th</sup>! Half the month is gone, and we JUST celebrated Labor Day! And, when I look at my age up above, I realize 67 is a long way past half of my lifetime. Shoot! It's probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  gone, maybe even more! God alone knows.

I just counted up in my head: we have 20 clocks in our house. Twenty! I have four watches: a cheap Timex I bought, one I inherited from my father, one I inherited from Erna McIntyre (It was her father's bought in Germany in 1960 something.), and a pocket watch on a chain I received from Donata Owsley for Christmas a couple of years ago. Add to that total the clocks in our cars, in our offices, in nearly every room at church, and you begin to realize how obsessive we are about time. And it's all because we only have a finite amount of time on this planet, and in our hearts, God has “set eternity”.

The writer of Ecclesiastes (“The Preacher”) says that God set eternity in the hearts of men so that they “will revere him”. We were made to live forever. The first two people were designed to live forever in communion with God. But sin destroyed that relationship and death reigned over humanity since. We are so very aware of time passing because every second is gone for good the moment it ticks by. Only God is eternal...and the ones he grants eternity. That's the key, isn't it? The Preacher says that to eat and drink and find satisfaction in one's toil is a gift from God, and that is so. That is a gift available and given to people whether they know the true God or not. That's what most people in the world shoot for. But it does not satisfy the soul. We yearn for eternity, to have time to do all the things we didn't have time for in this life; to pursue the things we always thought we'd love to do if only we had the time. That is only possible if we are given eternal life – and that's exactly where Jesus comes in. It is only through our faith in his life, death, Resurrection, and Coming Again that we have the hope of eternal life.

The average human, whatever his or her status, is aware of the passing of time. He or she longs for more time, but knows it is finite. But if that human being knows and trusts in Jesus Christ, then there is the promise of eternal life in the presence of God and with those who also put their hope in Jesus. So the Preacher says there is a time and a season for everything, but he is also aware that there is an end point

when our life is all used up. Then comes the time for death and from a worldly standpoint, that's it! It's all used up.

Not so, says our Lord. He calls us to him and assures us that he has a place already prepared for us where time is no longer a factor. No clocks or wristwatches in heaven. No calendars or schedules to keep. No sense of time tick-tick-tick-ticking away. Our joy will know no end because of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**PRAYER:**

**ANNOUNCEMENT(S):**

1) Now that Grace-on-Wednesday is in full swing, we can look forward to another new beginning as we look forward to the resumption of Sunday School with regular classes on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There'll be something for everyone. Plan to make it part of your life in Christ.