



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## My Time

We have a great deal of sayings that revolve around time. "Use your time wisely"; "Time is money"; "Time flies"; "That is a waste of time"; "Time well spent"; "Time management"; "For a limited time"; "A Difficult time"; "So little time, so much to do"; "In the passage of time"; "Give it time"; "A stitch in time saves nine"; "Time cannot erase"; "Time heals all Wounds"; "Killing Time"; "Times a Wasting"; "Time to eat"; "This is my time".

Time is a curious thing. For some, time moves rather slowly and yet for other, it passes rather quickly. Some use time wisely while others foolishly. For some, the time at work can't come to an end quick enough and for another, there just isn't enough time in the day to get all the work done that needs to be done. The amount of time in a day however remains the same, only twenty-four hours and each one of us determines just how he or she will spend their day.

### **What is the biblical perspective of time?**

#### **Time on earth is very short.**

"The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away". (Psalms 90:10)

"...For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." James 4:14

What you and I need to do is learn how to "number our days." (Psalm 90:12) and use our time wisely during how very short lives.

### **Redeem the Time**

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-15

The word redeem means to buy up or rescue from loss. Christians need to improve our time for greater and more important purposes.

### **Held Accountable for Our Use of Time**

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment." (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

### **God's Perspective of Time is Different Than Ours**

"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8)

Time and time again, (there is another saying) we observe these biblical truths and find them to be true. Today is the day to understand time as God does and to use today in the best way possible.

"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17)

# God's Eternal Standard is Our Rock

by Hobert Kendrick

We can become discouraged witnessing how a large part of our society has turned away from the God of heaven to follow the lusts, appetites and false promises of this world. We see every form of depravity elevated from the purview of the wicked to the construct for the normal.

It is comforting then, to know the One True God determined right and wrong from the very beginning and His precept has never changed. What was sin in the beginning is still sin today, and what was righteous in the beginning is still righteous.

This is a rock we can depend on and our God has provided clear and detailed instructions for us. He caused them to be recorded and then preserved for us over centuries of time so that we can embrace them and follow them today.

Many familiar scriptures reveal sin, (Ex. 20:12-17, Prov 6:16-19, 1 Cor 6:9-10) or instruct righteousness, (Matt 22:37-40, 2 Peter 1:5-8) but really every event recorded in Scripture contains lessons for us.

We are assured if we obey the gospel and are baptized into Christ and walk in God's precepts, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7), and we can have a home in heaven promised by the Most Faithful God.

## Why Believe A Lie?

-by Dennis Allan

Religious confusion and its assorted contradictory doctrines prove that the devil and his servants are effective deceivers (John 8:44). Since God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), the many false doctrines taught in various denominations today do not come from God. It is no surprise that the same evil one who has been perverting and denying the words of God since the Garden of Eden is still sowing seeds of deception. He even finds pastors ready to serve as his accomplices in preying upon weak little lambs (Acts 20:28-30).

But why would anyone allow himself to be deceived? Paul offers an explanation of the motives for believing lies in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12. The people deceived by Satan's craftiness "did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." It is not sufficient to know the truth. We must love the truth. There are many people who study the Bible for curiosity, or vanity, or for academic reasons, but who do not approach the Scriptures with the humility necessary to allow the Lord to change them and mold their character. They don't love the truth, and are thus easy prey for the devil.

Paul mentions one other factor: they "had pleasure in unrighteousness." When a person wants to find an excuse to justify sin in his life, he will not study the Bible with the honest and open heart necessary to understand it. You can often hear this attitude in the comments of those who want to defend their sinful practices: "Where in the Bible does it say that I cannot ..." The proper attitude is not defensive of evil, but asks: "What does the Lord want me to do?" People who are determined to justify their sins will not understand the truth. Their minds are carnal and incapable of discerning the spiritual richness of God's message (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Why would anyone believe a lie? Because the truth often demands painful transformations that most people are unwilling to make. The way of the Lord is difficult and lonely, but it leads to eternal life (Matthew 7:13-14).