

TIME

I'm writing this devotion on the occasion of my 72nd birthday, June 10th. I was born on 06/10/52 in Boston, where my mother was raised. With every passing birthday, I wonder how many more I have left. I don't know the answer to that, but I can make a few assumptions. First, there are certainly more years behind me than there are ahead of me. Second, if you consider life as a football or basketball game, I am most likely in the 4th quarter. The CDC's latest statistics for a white male living in the USA reports a life expectancy of 75 years. This puts me close to the "Two-Minute Warning"! That does not frighten me because of my relationship with our heavenly Father and His son Jesus Christ. For believers in Christ, time is almost irrelevant. We do not really die. We continue life in another dimension, one of indescribable glory!

What is time? We get our concept of time in the very first chapter of Genesis where God introduces the concept of a day (verse 14-19). We also know that time has a beginning (Gen 1:14), is linear (Luke 2:4, and 3:23-38), is finite, quantifiable, and measurable (Gen 8:22 and Gal 4:10), and will cease when its purpose is completed (Rev 21: 1-6). We do know that God will occasionally step into time to mark certain events in history. Consider the Incarnation, spoken of as being in "the fullness of time", or the story of Noah and the Great Flood, Abraham's covenant with God, Jacob wrestling with an angel, and of course Jesus' baptism, transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and the yet to be revealed, "day of the Lord", and the Second Coming.

Our understanding of time is limited. We cannot grasp with our finite minds the complexity of the space-time continuum or the fact that God exists in all dimensions of time: past, present, and future (Heb 13:8). Since these concepts are hard to understand, we can only live and function in today, and that is all God asks us to do. We can't change the past, as much as we would like to, and we cannot see into the future. We can only live today. I learned a wonderful lesson during my years of participation in AA. Step 11 of 12 says: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for me (*today*) and the power to carry that out" (italics mine). I try and start each day with this simple exercise, trusting that God will make all things right, if I surrender to His will. So don't worry about your next birthday, or even tomorrow for that matter, because all you have is today and you can make a difference in Gods Kingdom today by praying "Lord make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light! That is a great way to spend time!