

1 Kairos Time:

- or does anybody really know what time it is?

2 Tonight's Scripture

- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Eph 5:15–17 NIV)
- Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Eph 5:18 NIV)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:19–20 NIV)

3 Quick Survey

- How many people here tonight regularly wear a wristwatch of some kind?
- How many people now use your Cell Phone as their primary means to keep time.
- Regardless of what timepiece you carry, it's clear that we live in a world obsessed with time.
- Rarely does anyone ask, "Do you have the time?" because everyone has it attached to their body somehow.

4 Time Management

- We have multiple apps for tracking our calendars, managing deadlines, and even timing our walk to the office.
- We have time staring at us from the corner of our computer screens, the car's dashboard, and the digital clock on the bank sign down the street.
- If you live in a big city, you might even look up and see a classic old clock fixed on a historic building marking the time for generations.

5 Time Management

- In some cities, telling time is a big deal.
 - For example, if you're in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, you can't help but see the Abraj Al Bait Towers clock just about anywhere you go.
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- Its clock face is 141 feet in diameter, roughly the size of a luxury yacht, built on a tower almost 2,000 feet tall.

6 Time Management

- By comparison, Big Ben, arguably the most famous clock in the world, is almost 20 feet in diameter on a 314-foot high tower on the bank of the Thames.
- Other cities worldwide have similar "big time" clocks to help residents and visitors track the time.
- Some clocks even assist with chimes or bells when the clock strikes the hour.

7 Time Management Stress

- You'd think that the plethora of clocks in our world would better manage our time, but the truth is that time management is one of the most significant stressors in our culture.
- We work too many hours, have too many distractions, and try to squeeze in more work in less time.
- Procrastination often results from being so overwhelmed with tasks that we keep putting things off, only to find that we're now even more squeezed for time.

8 Chronos

- The relentless ticking of the clock (or, in their case, the movement of the shadow around the sundial) is what the ancient Greeks referred to as Chronos Time, from which we get the word "chronology."
- Chronology means the arrangement of events or dates in the order of occurrence.
- So then, a watch is a "chronograph" and is supposed to keep track of the thing we are all running out of, which is time.

9 Kairos Time

- The Apostle Paul didn't wear a watch or carry a cell phone, but he was nevertheless always aware of time.
- However, instead of focusing on Chronos time like a running clock, he was far more interested in Kairos time.
- In other words, the Apostle Paul was more interested in the

- “purposeful use of time,”
- rather than time itself.
- While Chronos time is quantitative, Kairos is qualitative—signifying importance, opportunity, and fulfillment.

10 Kairos Time

- Kairos is the kind of time most often mentioned in the New Testament.
- As already stated, kairos refers to
 - a decisive time,
 - the right time, or
 - the appropriate time.
- The writers of the New Testament seem to understand that kairos time is about those moments when God intervenes or is about to intervene in human history.
- The word can also mean the time God’s people have to prepare for the ultimate kairos.
- Thus Paul’s admonition to the Ephesians to “[make] the most of the time [kairos] because the days are evil” (v. 16).

11 Use of Kairos in the New Testament

- “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15 NIV)
- You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come.” (John 7:8 NIV)
- He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” (Matt 26:18 NIV)
- Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Rev 1:3 NIV)

12 Kairos Time

- It's that Kairos expectation that should fuel the management of our Chronos.
- Paul begins this section of the letter with a call to set the alarm clock.
 - The darkness of evil is about to be exposed by the bright dawn of God's coming kingdom. Thus Paul tells the Ephesian church to "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but indeed expose them" because "everything exposed by the light becomes visible" (vv. 11, 13).
 - With the dawn about to break, Paul uses what may be a line from an ancient hymn as a wake-up call: "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (v. 14).

13 Kairos Time

- With that coming moment in mind, Paul urges the church, "Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise" (v. 15).
- Use your time wisely, in other words, by ordering your lives after the new reality that is breaking in.
- In this way, you will make the most of the kairos and live in ways consistent with the coming day of the Lord and not in step with the present evil that governs the daily calendar of much of the world.
- To "understand what the will of the Lord is" and to do it is the best time management strategy in light of the coming of the Lord (v. 17).

14 Kairos Time

- Since the day and hour in which we live is so evil and full of people who walk in darkness and are therefore, no help to us spiritually speaking, we must take it upon ourselves to know the Lord.
- To do this, we must be very careful on how we live or handle the trials of life.
- For they are "kairos moments"—opportunities for us to practice our faith, so that we can grow in our knowledge of the Lord and understand His good and pleasing will—whereby we can finish the race.

15 Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

- However, we are not enlightened to actual spiritual knowledge by indulging or overpowering the senses—like the Dionysians.

- The Dionysians thought that getting high on wine or other intoxicates would help them make contact with the gods.
- According to the Apostle Paul, this only leads to debauchery—excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures and vice.
- Instead, we as Christians are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

16 Be Filled

- According to the context of Ephesians 5:15-20, we are filled with the Spirit and grow in our knowledge of God when we. . .
 - Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Building up others with God's Word)
 - Sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord. (Delighting ourselves in God's goodness.)
 - Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything. (Expressing to God how grateful we are for His love and goodness in our lives.)

17 Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit desires to take us into the deep things (truths) of God.
- His purpose is to give us the "mind of Christ" so that we can have the understanding and wisdom we need to live out our faith in a world that is evil and full of darkness.
- So then, let us be filled with God's Spirit and the deep things of God.
- Because when we have the "oil of divine illumination," light shines on our path to keep us from falling or getting hurt.

18 Chronos & Kairos

- How we "make the most of the time" is thus a function of how well we use our Chronos to focus on the kairos.
- When we face trials during a typical day, we should look at them as kairos—moments of opportunities to cultivate our relationship with God.
- When we do so, we will grow in our knowledge of God and produce fruit that only God's grace can produce in us.

- However, it's easy to misinterpret trials as problems or setbacks and miss the opportunity to be filled with more of the Holy Spirit.

19 God is For Us!

- If the truth is known, a big reason why we have difficulty growing is that we don't discern that most trials are not problems but opportunities.
- If we all saw trials as opportunities to express our faith, we might all be further down the road being filled with God's Spirit.
- Nevertheless, I have good news! God is for us and not against us.

20 Pure Joy

- In the Epistle of James, the author instructs us to "consider it pure joy" when we face trials. (See James 1:1)
- Either James is an idiot, or he knows something that is "deep truth."
- His point is that trials allow us to use our faith, and when we exercise our faith, it grows and becomes strong so that we can finish the race.
- However, in the same paragraph, James gives us more "deep truth."

21 Wait Upon the Lord . . .

- James says, If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5 NIV)
- According to the context, James says that if anyone needs wisdom on how to handle their trials, then that person should ask God for help.
- Not necessarily to take away the trial(s) but wisdom on how to respond to them in a godly way so that we can grow and be strong in our faith.
- Interestingly, we don't have to be spiritual giants to receive this wisdom but just have a willingness to wait upon God and believe.

22 Examples of Opportunities

- Kairos time is whenever we have the opportunity to make the most of our circumstances.
 - So when our boss or coworkers take advantage of us, and we respond with God's wisdom and act godly, we make the most of our opportunity to grow, be filled with the Spirit, and let our light shine.
 - When someone in our family disappoints us—whether a child, spouse, parent, or sibling, we put in motion the work of God's Holy Spirit inside us if we use God's wisdom in our response.
 - If we see the world going to hell in a handbasket and respond with Christlikeness, we will find ourselves strong in the Lord and able to rise above the situation and be part of the solution instead of the problem.

23 Follow the Example of Christ

- We are called to make the most out of all opportunities—by following Jesus Christ.
- We should set our eyes on Him and learn from His example.
- As it says in Hebrews, Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:2 NIV)
- Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb 12:3 NIV)

24 Preparing our Hearts

- Therefore, as we take Communion tonight, let us set our hearts to follow Him and make the most of all hardships and situations by doing the right thing.
 - For if we do, we will be blessed and be filled with God's Spirit and peace.
 - So then,
 - Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. (Hebrew 12:7 NIV)
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- No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrew 12:11 NIV)

25 Conclusion

- Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Hebrews 12:12–13 NIV)
- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:15–16 NIV)
- Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. (Eph. 5:17 NIV)

26 Bonus Conclusion

- In high school, I played saxophone in the following bands.
 - The Marching Band
 - The Symphony Band
 - The Jazz Band, and my favorite,
 - The Pep Band
- I liked the Pep Band because we played in all the Basketball games and got to wear a sweater with the High School letter.
- The Student Body would stand and clap for about everything we played.

27 Bonus Conclusion

- In those days, the group Chicago was very popular, and we played all their music.
 - “Make Me Smile”
 - “25 or 6 to 4”
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- "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"
- We also play an instrumental called "The Horse," wildly popular back then and even now after five decades.
- According to Wikipedia, "The Horse" continues to be a staple of American marching and pep bands and is often heard at American football and basketball games.

28 Bonus Conclusion

- The song by Chicago, entitled "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?" is, to me, very interesting.
- Why? Because it asks some interesting philosophical questions about time.
 - One person asks another person if they know the time.
 - The person responds by asking another question, "Does anybody really know what time it is?"
 - And then adds, "Does anybody really care?"
 - But then says in a rather nihilistic expression, "We've all got time enough to cry"

29 Bonus Conclusion

- Nihilism is an extreme form of skepticism that maintains that nothing in the world has an actual existence and that life, in general, is meaningless and hopeless.
- So then, if life is meaningless, so is time.
- And if time is meaningless, we won't value how we use and spend time, unless we want to cry.
- Or we can spend time and money on what immediately feels good and medicates our soul, which is a form of debauchery

30 Bonus Conclusion

- That is why we must live by faith and wisely use our time.
 - As Isaiah declares (Isaiah 3:10–11),
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- "Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds.
- [But] Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done."
- In other words, it is time to serve the Lord, for there is a time coming when our faith, deeds, and perseverance will be abundantly rewarded.
- Amen.