

Time is Temporary

Introduction & Review

- ❑ God has complete rule over time – He started it (Gen. 1:1), intervenes when necessary (Josh. 10:13-14) & will end it.
- ❑ God as Creator has established time boundaries for people – limited lifespan (Job 14:1-5; Ps. 90:12).
- ❑ Paul corrects immature thinking for believers who are not considering the eternal future – NOW & THEN (1Co. 13:8-12).
- ❑ Spiritual gifts which are less than perfect in ministry are still necessary in the present time & age – NOW (1Co. 13:9, 12).
- ❑ Sp. gifts will not be needed in the eternal future since knowledge & understanding will be complete – THEN (1Co. 13:10, 12).
- ❑ History is intended to benefit the believer in this present life & ministry – PAST (Rom. 15:4).
- ❑ **Knowing your past & future affects your present life & ministry..**

I. Seeing Beauty in Time (v. 11a)

A. God's rule over all events in time

In His infinite wisdom, God has established the period of time or timeframe for every event in human history (v. 1-8). Nothing in all of creation ever happens by chance or accident – good or evil; private or public; local or national. This gives HOPE to the believer who trusts in the Lord. God determines history before it happens (Is. 45:7; 46:10).

B. The believer's perspective of God's rule

The believer must learn to assess life's events from a biblical or God's perspective. The believer must learn not to rush to judgment (Jn. 7:24, 51; Rom. 14:10) – appearances, feelings, bias, opinions, lacking facts, etc. When a believer accepts that all events in history ultimately result in glory for God, then everything fits beautifully into God's plan.

ILL: Israel's history – blessing, sin, punishment, deliverance, etc. There was real joy, pain, misery, birth, death, etc. When we review Israel's history, God is to be praised – beauty (Ps. 106:1-48).

APPL: The same should be true for each believer – you & me. We must get a godly perspective of everything in our lives (Rom. 8:28; Jas. 1:2-3). God is carefully working out everything – beautiful!

II. Desiring Eternity in Time (v. 11b)

A. Desire to understand fully

God has given people the sense that there is existence & life after this present life – eternity. There has to be something more because temporary things of life do not fully satisfy (Eccl. 1:14). Therefore people want to understand things fully or eternally – from beginning to end. We want to know how situations end – relationships, health, finances, career, families, church, etc. How is God going to work this out for His glory & my good?

B. Limitations in understanding fully

God alone is omniscient & reserves this divine quality for Himself (Is. 46:10; Rom. 11:33). In this life, believers must accept the limitations in our understanding of the events of life (1Co. 13:9, 12; Deu. 29:29). Therefore we must trust the Lord fully with our future & to keep His promises (Pr. 3:5-6).

ILL: First lawn irrigation system. I watched 2 men tearing up my yard with a tractor burying PVC pipe & wiring underground. I kept watching hour by hour trying to figure out how the pipes, wiring, irrigation heads, etc. was going to work together. And I didn't think my yard was going to be torn up that badly. But I trust them; they had a plan, carried it out & the system worked well.

APPL: The same should be true for each believer – you & me. We watch sometimes as circumstances & events in our lives seem to be tearing us up. Often it gets much worse than we thought it would be. But God who started the good work knows exactly what He is doing. He will complete the work in us & cause it all to work together for our good!

CONCLUSION

Therefore we can see that God intends for believers to find real joy in life – times of difficulty & ease; birth & death; sickness & health; poverty & wealth; acceptance & rejection; misery & deliverance. All the events of time are completely under God's control & He's actively involved in them. God's marvelous & glorious redemptive plan is to unite all things in Christ (Eph. 1:10). All the events of time are moving toward that great day when Christ will be highly exalted; every knee will bow & tongue confess that He is Lord. All things will be in subjection to Him – all authority, power, sickness, death, evil & pain. So even though for a short time & brief period of time we must **weep**, we know that **joy** is coming in the morning. Eternal joy is on the horizon; can't you see it? God has a marvelous plan for your life & He's working it out in time – He's making everything in your life beautiful in His time. Time is short (even temporary), so rejoice now beloved!

And if you are not a Christian, you need to consider that time is short (temporary) for you too. Soon life on earth will be over & eternity will be your future... Are you ready for eternity? Jesus is the only hope for the future. Will you trust Him & believe today...?

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[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)