

The Ethics of Time

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

GOD IS ETERNAL & TIMELESS

- 1) His name:
- 2) His nature:

CREATED BY GOD

- 1) Genesis 1:3-5
- 2) Genesis 1:14-15
- 3) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

RECKONING OF TIME

- 1) The Julian Calendar (46 BC):
- 2) The Gregorian Calendar (590–604):
- 3) The Hebrew Calendar (*sefer olam rabbah*)

PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

- Herbert Butterfield's (*Interpretation Of History*) observation:

- 1) Georg Hegel (1770–1831)
- 2) Oswald Spengler (1880–1936) *The Decline of the West*
- 3) Arnold Toynbee (1936–1954) 10-volume *A Study of History*
- 4) Christopher Dawson (1889–1970)
- 5) William Durant (1885 –1981) 11-volume *The Story of Civilization*

PURPOSE OF TIME

- 1) Psalm 90:12
- 2) Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- 3) Ecclesiastes 12

PROVIDENCE

- 1) Prophecy
- 2) Leviticus 23
- 3) Daniel 9:24-27
- 4) Galatians 4:4

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn about the ethics of time you did not previously know? What practical change in attitude or behavior do you purpose to make as a result of the study?
2. If God is eternal and man is created "in His image" then why is our life limited and temporal? What are the advantages and disadvantages of living "a long life"?
3. Do you agree with Butterfield's interpretation of history? Why? Why is it important to learn history?
4. What is the purpose of time?
5. What is "real time" if time, according to Einstein, is relative? How, then, is the use of time a moral issue? Can "wasting time" or "killing time" be sinful? Why is "being relevant" sometimes morally and ethically dangerous?

He that takes truth for his guide, and duty for his end, may safely trust to God's providence to lead him aright. **Blaise Pascal**