

TIME  
Text: Psalm 37:25

INTRO: David said, "I have been young, & now I am old..." That happens to all of us--unless we die young.

The LXX attributes Psa 71 to David. READ PSA 71:17-18.

For young folks, time seems to move slowly. As we get older, time has a way of getting away from us. Where have all the hours gone? What happened to the years?

Moses wrote: The days of our lives are 70 years; & if by reason of strength they are 80 years, yet their boast is only labor & sorrow; for it is soon cut off, & we fly away. (Psa90:10).

Young folks: do you ever find yourself not getting around to doing some things you really want to do, & intend to do? I can assure you that as you get older it will only get worse.

To those who are middle-aged and beyond, I don't have to inform you how quickly time is slipping away from us.

I. EVERY ONE OF US NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE THE BREVITY AND UNCERTAINTY OF TIME.

- A. Life is short at best. We will die leaving some things unfinished. Let us set proper priorities so that we can make the most of the time we have.

David wisely prayed: Lord, make me to know my end, & what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. (Psa 39:4).

Moses prayed: So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psa 90:12).

- B. Paul admonished: READ EPHESIANS 5:15-16.

- C. Jesus warned that the night is coming when we cannot work, John 9:4.

- D. Vapor, grass, flower, watch in the night, weaver's shuttle...

## II. THE TIME WE HAVE MUST BE DIVIDED & USED IN NUMEROUS AREAS OF LIFE.

- A. There must be time for work. Eph 4:28; 2 Thess 3:10
- B. There must be time for rest, relaxation, recreation.  
Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. (Jn 4:6).

[Jesus said to the apostles:] "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place & rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

- C. There must be time for family. READ EPH 5:22-25; 6:1-4
- D. There must be time for God, Luke 2:49; MT 6:33.
  - 1. I've known folks who spent too much of their time working, earning, saving money. Luke 12:20.

READ ECCL. 2:18-19

2. I fear that many folks I know--maybe myself included--spend too much time resting, relaxing, etc. I hope we won't come to the end saying, "I wish I had worked harder in the kingdom of God."

3. And tho family time is very important---I'm pretty sure I've known some who gave time & emphasis to their children or grandchildren or parents, out of proportion to the time they gave to God. This is a mistake of which Jesus cautioned His disciples repeatedly, MT 10:35-38; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26-27; Luke 18:29-30.

4. Many folks are going to come to the end of their earthly lives & face the realization that life has not so slowly slipped away from them & they have not done what they should have and could have done in the service of God.

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, & we  
are not saved! (Jer 8:20).

III. LET US RESOLVE NOT TO WASTE THE TIME WE HAVE--

- A. Reading books & magazines not worth reading.  
READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-3
- B. Watching TV programs & movies that not only do not  
enrich our lives but actually tend to detract from our  
moral & spiritual development.
- C. Brooding over past mistakes. Phil 3:13-14.
- D. Engaging in unwholesome or questionable entertainment.
- E. Rather, let us do our work, enjoy our rest & relaxation,  
enjoy time with our families & especially spend a  
reasonable amount of time in the service of God,  
Rom. 12:1-2.
  - 1. Time studying His word.
  - 2. Time praying for His blessings, giving thanks for  
blessings already received.
  - 3. Sharing with others in whatever way we can, our  
knowledge of & faith in God & His Son Jesus  
Christ.

CONCLUSION: Time takes its toll on our friends, our loved ones, our  
opportunities, & ourselves.

Seems the snow falls a bit deeper these days,  
And they're building the steps a bit steeper these days,  
And the whole town is changing in so many ways.  
Time, just time.

The young folks are growing excessively tall,  
And the newspaper print is becoming so small,  
And folks talk so quiet you can barely hear at all.  
Time, just time.

The jokes aren't as witty as the old jokes once were,

And the girls aren't as pretty as I remember her,  
And last week in the park, a grown man called me "Sir."  
Time, just time.

I'm not quite so anxious for fame and success.  
My eye finds the girl in the plain, simple dress,  
And I cling a bit longer to each warm caress.  
Time, just time.

So it takes a bit longer to walk up the hill.  
What of it? My life is much more fulfilled.  
But they're tearing down buildings that I watched them build.  
Time, just time.

Shiloh, Mexia, October 6, 1996  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 7, 1999  
Jonestown, TX, June 3, 2004 (meeting)