

TIME

"I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there."

-Richard P. Feynman

James said, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Job said that his days were swifter than a weaver's shuttle (Job 7:6). It seems that it was only a short time ago since the last year's holiday season. Birthdays have come and gone. Children are growing up. Parents grow older. Sometimes we may wish that time would pass more slowly. But it is a fact of life, as sure as the earth continues to circle the sun, time will keep passing by. The question is, "What are you doing with the time you have been given?"

Richard P. Feynman (1918-1988) was a theoretical physicist who was known for his work on the Manhattan Project (developing the atomic bomb). In 1965 he won the Nobel Prize for physics. President Reagan appointed him to serve on the President's Commission to investigate the space shuttle Challenger disaster. He was chosen for his scientific ability to solve problems and for his reputation of integrity. The quote above shows Feynman's desire to learn. Although he was an intelligent man, Feynman was an atheist. He spent his life working on scientific theories and solving complicated problems. He spent his leisure time following after the pleasures of the flesh. Since his time was consumed with the things of this world, he failed to learn the significance of learning about God until his time ran out. In the end (as far as is known) he died without God.

Your time on earth is limited. Job said, "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). The Bible says, "So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). God lamented Israel's lack of desire for spiritual things when He said, "Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end!" (Deuteronomy 32:29.) Seeing that your time is limited, what is the best use of your time? Is it to chase after mammon, or selfish pleasures? Or, is it to follow Jesus to heaven?

Solomon explained to his son, "...incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:2-5).

There are those who, like Richard Feynman, spend all their time seeking after worldly wisdom. Others seek after worldly power. Some spend their time chasing mammon (worldly riches). There are others who focus their time seeking their own hobbies and/or pleasures. And then there are those who seem to do very little with their time that might be called "productive." In the Bible they are called "idle," "lazy," "sloths," and "sluggards."

It does matter how you spend your time. If the devil can keep you distracted from spiritual matters then that is equally as great a victory for him as leading you to lie, steal, commit fornication, or murder. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). Richard Feynman later reconsidered the time he had spent helping to build the atomic bomb.

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