

How Much Time Do We Have Left?

by Wayne Goff

That is a much asked question. When we are traveling with our family, the children ask often how much longer will it be until we get there. The question tends to irritate the parents because they know the implication is that the children want to be there now! While in school, students look at the clock on the wall, or on their wrist watches to see how much time is left. They are bored and ready to be on to the next class because that is closer to the end of the day. Employees at work are sometimes known as “clock watchers” because they can never get away from work fast enough.

I have heard comical stories of people in church looking at their watches to see how long the preacher has been preaching, and when they might be able to escape! One preacher told of the song leader on the front pew shaking his wrist watch to remind the preacher of the time. Others have made the comment that a sermon does not have to be eternal to be immortal! My own father commented once in a gospel meeting that he was preaching a bit longer that night because he couldn't find a good place to quit. After that sermon one brother came out and said, “Brother Goff, I saw a lot of good places to quit!” It's all about time.

However, I like the support I often received from Vicki Vaughan when she worshiped here. She would always comment, “Well, the sign out front tells what time we start. It doesn't say anything about what time we quit!” May God increase her tribe!

But the most important question is “How much time do I have left here on earth?” God has chosen not to answer that question, and thus you and I had better be ready to meet our Maker now! “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Romans 13:11. You better be prepared. You only get one opportunity before eternity!

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