

# **GODFIRST:**

## Kingdom Priorities for Christian Living 5; *“Making GODFIRST in our TIME”*

*“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Mt 6:33 NLT*

As we continue consideration of making GODFIRST in the whole of our lives, we cannot fail to evaluate the use of TIME. According to the Priorities established for living as members of God’s Kingdom; in God’s Kingdom, how are we to view time? Is time just the passing of seconds on the clock, minutes that fill hours, hours that define days, days that fund years, and years that measure life, or are we to think about time in a different way in God’s Kingdom? Listen to the words of this song that asks this same question. ([Seasons of Love](#), by Jonathon Larsen) (Use Movie Trailer clip if possible, if not, the slide with words and recording of song)

Yes, let’s define time by using Love as our standard, but why? Why is it so important how we consider or define time? I’ll tell you in a minute, but for now I want to look at some scriptures with you:

*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. Ecc. 3:1*

*So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Eph. 5: 18*

*“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” Mark 1:15*

*But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.” Gal. 4: 4*

*For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2*

These various verses introduce us to some interesting perspectives on TIME in the New Testament concept of the Kingdom of God. And we'll consider them in a minute, but here is the answer to the question posed above: why is how we look at time so important?

How we look at **time**, determines how we **define** our life. If we tend to look at our time as only 'here and now', as just an accumulation of moments one after another; then we become hedonistic consumers grasping to find meaning in illusive endeavors that deliver neither happiness nor hope.

If on the other hand we can come to look at time as a series of special, even divine moments that sometimes interrupt our chronological and sequential time march; then in the long expanse of eternity, we can find our relevance, our meaning, our purpose, our happiness, our joy; not just in the spending of time, but by experiencing God's breakthroughs into our lives, that give true meaning, purpose and hope. Does that make sense? It all depends on how we look at time. A merely chronological view of time produces mundane, boring and purposeless lives. Recognizing, realizing, even relying on God-injected Divine moments can produce a life of joy, excitement, and meaning. These two perspectives on TIME come directly to us from the two primary Greek words used to describe what we in English call TIME.

## 1. "**CHRONOS**"

Chronos is obviously the Greek word from which we take our English Word: Chronology: the measure of time, and the fixing of dates, linear or sequential time. There is nothing wrong with thinking about time in terms of 'chronology', though to be honest; we are a bit obsessive about the marking of time in our Western culture, aren't we? We are sometimes driven by time, governed by time, slaves to time, victims of time, making the most of time, putting in our time, saving time, racing against time, maximizing time. See what I mean?

All of those are fine references to the time of our day, but not the days of our lives! If all we do is live our lives as victims of time, we've undersold ourselves on God's plan for our lives.

I know that not every moment of our lives can be euphoric in nature, or euphoria would soon lose its meaning, but when the living of our lives becomes defined by noting more than spending our time, we have missed God's moments among us.

You see the Greeks and Hebrews before them understood Chronos, but they understood it as nothing more than an insignificant measurement of time, not the sum-meaning of time. We modern day 'time-slaves' have come to mark not just the days of our lives with Chronos, we have marked the meaning of our lives with them too. That's at least partly why there is such hopelessness and despair in our world today. The chronos, linear, horizontal living of life has voided our lives of any divine meaning, and that's why we have to look at the second Greek word translated TIME. It will help us realize the REAL value of Time. (Watch this Blue Fish Clip)

## **2. "KAIROS"**

Kairos is the Greek word translated time, especially a \* point of time, a moment in time, the right moment, and most uniquely; a favorable opportunity. Most of the scriptures we read earlier used Kairos to describe Time. It carries the meaning of being a unique moment, a special moment, a divine moment; when something unusual breaks into the ordinary marching of chronos time. Do you see where I'm going?

Most of our lives are marked by Chronos time, but we must make allowance for the occasional Kairos events breaking into our time. Time in the Kingdom is marked by both, but unfortunately much of our modern lives are marked only my Chronos.

Far too many people, even well-meaning Christian people have fettered their lives with the constraints of Chronos, and make no room or allowance for the opportunity of Kairos! For the ones who choose to believe there are no longer miracles, chronos reigns supreme. For the ones who deny the realities of sin, guilt, salvation, eternity; chronos reigns supreme. For those who have ceased believing that God is still active in our world, our church or our lives, Chronos time has superseded Kairos time.

Now here is the kicker. Kairos time is a uniquely NT concept. The OT knew only of this concept in terms of eons or massive expanses of time. But the NT concept of Kairos was connected to a person, an event, a singular interruption in the horizontal chronology of the first century. Guess what that event/person was? YES, Jesus.

From the moment of Jesus coming: *“The time (Kairos) promised by God has come at last!”*; to the moment of his death; from the moment of his resurrection, to the mention of his return; with each mention of time when connected to Jesus, Kairos is the preferred term.

This is most vividly seen in the verse from Galatians we read earlier; 4:4 *“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.”*

You might assume that “kairos” is the word used here, but it’s not. No, “Chronos” is used in 4:4, but it literally is translated:

*“But when the right time (chronos) is come to an end, God sent his son...”* Do you see the connection? Making allowance for Kairos Time, in effect ends the concept of Chronos Time. In much the same way that making allowance for Jesus ends the concept of helplessness, and hopelessness associated with the boring and mundane living of a purely linear and horizontal existence.

My friends, I’m not trying to impress you with my very limited understanding of Greek, I’m trying to impress on you that how you view time defines the meaning of your life.

If your life has no room for wonder, or mystery, or unknowns, or questions, or doubts, or miracles, or ecstasies, or holy interruptions, then you are merely existing on the chronological plane of life. If your life no longer allows you the freedom to feel God's Spirit, and God's Presence and God's Power, then you may have succumbed to the Chronos of living, and be blocking out the Kairos that we all so desperately need! We must be willing to be encountered by the divine interventions, interruptions, and inspirations of GOD, or live in the mundane sameness of just time!

Maybe it makes no difference to you, but it does to me. I want to end my life having eked every millisecond of meaning from every moment, mundane or holy. If we can do that, the mundane can often become holy! I would like you to watch this clip of a popular movie that came out a few years ago, then we'll finish by considering one more of the scriptures I mentioned earlier.

Clip from Dead Poets Society.

Why does the call to 'seize the day' ring so loudly for some that they zealously pursue meaning in all they do; and in others it falls on seemingly deaf ears? Why do some make room for God, and some settle for mundane? Why do some spend their time, and some squeeze their time for all its worth? It all has to do with TIME. Time in the Kingdom of God is measured with chronos, but it is marked by Kairos. What will be the mark of your life? Will you seize the day, or spend it...again?

*For God says, "At just the right time,(Kairos) I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" (Kairos) is now. Today is the day of salvation. 2*

Cor. 6:2        Today is your day of decision. Let us pray.

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How we look at \_\_\_\_\_, determines how we \_\_\_\_\_ our life.

1. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

2. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Five hundred twenty five thousand  
six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty five thousand  
moments so dear  
Five hundred twenty five thousand  
six hundred minutes  
How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylight, sunsets, in midnights,  
in cups of coffee,

In inches, in miles  
in laughter in strife,

Five hundred twenty five thousand  
six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a year in the life?

(chorus)

How about Love  
how about love  
how about love  
measure in love  
seasons of love  
seasons of love

Five hundred twenty five thousand  
six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty five thousand  
journeys to plan  
Five hundred twenty five thousand  
six hundred minutes  
how do you measure the life of a woman  
or a man?

In truth that she learned  
or in times that he cried  
In the bridges he burned  
or the way that she died?

Its time now to sing out  
though the story never ends  
lets celebrate remember a year  
in the life of friends.