

SERMON NOTES: A LIFE LIVED WELL 7 - TIME (Sunday 7 June 2015)

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:14, 2:28, 3:22-24

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Then the Lord God said, "Behold the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

John 3:22-30

After this, Jesus and His disciples went to the Judean countryside, where He spent time with them and baptised. John also was baptising in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptised, since John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification. So they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the One you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptising—and everyone is flocking to Him."

John responded, "No one can receive a single thing unless it's given to him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of Him.' He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly[b] at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."

QUOTES

"We are infatuated with the splendour of space, with the grandeur of things of space. We know what to do with space but do not know what to do about time, except to make it subservient to space. Most of us seem to labour for the sake of things of space. As a result we suffer from a deeply rooted dread of time and stand aghast when compelled to look into its face."

"To understand the teaching of the bible, one must accept its premise that time has a meaning for life which is at least equal of space: that time has a significance and sovereignty of its own. The answer to the problem of civilisation: not to flee from the realm of space; to work with things of space but to be in love with eternity."

Abraham Heschel

"Unseized time will flow in the direction of one's relative weakness."

Gordon MacDonald

ADDITIONAL READING

Ordering Your Private World - Gordon MacDonald

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

+ Do you tend to lean more toward fear or sloth in the way you use your time?

Understand life is short (James 4:13-17)

+ Do you know the kind of rhythms you are most effective in? Take time to consider what rhythms allow you to be most fruitful with your time.

Understand life is short to give you wisdom (Psalm 90:12)

+ What/whose wisdom are you allowing to influence your priorities with time?

Don't attempt to possess time— make it holy

(Genesis 2:3)

+ How are you setting apart time in holiness and giving back time to God?

Be wise with time (Ephesians 5:15-17)

+ Are you using time to do things 'in the darkness', or in ways that give life?

Capture time for Christ

+ Look at your periods of 'unseized' time. Are you allowing these periods to be dominated by weaknesses?