

Newsletter Article for Sept '19

Just over a week ago a strange thing happened! I had an appointment to be somewhere at 10:00am. I got myself and everything I needed ready, and finding myself with a little spare time before I needed to leave, I sat down to read something. The next thing I knew, I glanced up at the clock and realised, with panic, that I was now going to be late. I felt quite upset with myself because I had planned my time quite carefully so as not to be dashing around.

I concentrated hard and drove speedily (and safely of course!) to my destination. I parked the car, and still feeling somewhat 'out of breath', checked my watch to see how extensive my apology would need to be, only to find I had arrived before I had left! A 'Dr. Who' moment? Flooded with relief, I double-checked my watch against my phone and yes I was in good time. Three days later discovered the clock I had looked at, clearly had a dead battery and had stopped.

TIME

Make the most of it ... Don't waste it ...
It drags ... it flies by...
Too much ... not enough ...
If I can find some ... where does it go?

Clocks, calendars, watches, diaries....
Years, months, days, minutes...
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter

Whatever way you look at it, there is no escaping time's relentless march. In so many ways time dominates and dictates all our doings. Does that make us feel secure or stressed? We experience times of anticipation, almost wishing time away as we long for that special event or holiday to happen; we also experience times of dread. Either way we need to live well through the waiting. Or maybe our consciousness of time is most acute when we watch the minute hand tick by as the bus or train is late again, or the doctor or dentist is running behind schedule, or the person we should meet hasn't arrived yet.

Ecc.3:1 says 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'. How reassuring that is. I love the book of Ecclesiastes, and God drawing my attention to Ch.2:11 in 1975 changed my life forever.

Over the last two weeks I have been repeatedly reminded of how different life can feel, when we daily and intentionally commit the timing of all we do to God for His direction. To exercise a trust in Jesus through all the stages of our day. To not hurry or linger unnecessarily but experience and deliver what He intends through our activities, interactions and stillness - and through that to receive the fulfilment of His joy. I believe that how we are, in the smallest moments or in the big important things, is of equal value and importance to God. As the song says 'in every moment You are there'...

TIME: In God's plan there is **never** too little and **always** enough.

Blessings,

Rita