

CREATING TIME

TOUCH BASE:

How would you describe your relationship with time? Are you and time friends or are you generally upset with one another? What makes you frustrated about time?

What is something that you are willing to make time to do – regardless of how busy you may feel or how many appointments are on your schedule? Why is this a priority to you?

PRAYER

BIBLE STUDY:

It's true that everyone is given the same number of hours in a day: 24 (or 1,440 minutes or 86,400 seconds). This is a universal reality; yet each person chooses their priorities differently since time is limited. Pastor Clint is concerned that many people do not have a good theology of time, and so he began in Genesis to discuss how time came about.

In Genesis 1, the creation of the world is the theme of the chapter – we know the six days of creation followed by a day of rest. On the first day, God created light and darkness. The sermon covered the fourth day: when God harnessed the light and the dark and created time. The account is that God allowed two lights to rule: the greater light during the day and the lesser light during the night. He also created stars. This was the beginning of “time” and God saw that it was ‘good’.

As we begin our time thinking about the sermon, is there anything that really stood out to you that you would like to share? Is there anything that you've been challenged to consider (or reconsider) as a result of what you heard?

The sacred is also governed by time. Pastor Clint mentioned the seven days between Sabbath Worship (Sundays) and the ways that we mark the spiritual seasons in our lives. **Why is it important to have “seasons” in which to celebrate these spiritual events?**

The lights are described as “lesser” and “greater” but are most commonly thought of as the Sun and the Moon. The Scripture does not put names in the passage in the hopes of focusing on their purposes rather than being tempted to worship them (as so many ancient and modern people have chosen to do). **What do you believe the lure of worshipping the sun or moon might be for those who so choose? Is there a warning in there for us to be aware of as it relates to all idolatry?**

Regardless of how we see time (remember above?), God saw time and declared it to be “good”. The Hebrew word implies that God saw time as “pleasant, beautiful, and beneficial” (especially for mankind). **What would need to happen in the world, in your life, or in your spirit for you to be able to declare time as pleasant, beautiful, and beneficial? Or do you already view time in this manner? Why is there a strong temptation to see it differently?**

Pastor Clint offered three suggestions to answer the key question of *“How can we best choose our priorities for our limited amount of time?”* He suggests that this begins with seeing time as God’s and not as ours, to recognize that all time is worship time, and that time is a blessing rather than a curse.

Has time ever been an idol for you? What can be done to reclaim time as belonging to God rather than ourselves?

Have you ever missed a worship service or Bible study because “your” time is limited? Is this ever okay?

How is using your God-given vocation, talents, and skills with your time a form of worship? Would you agree with Pastor Clint that appropriate amounts of sleep is actually worship? Why or why not?

What might happen that would make you see time as a curse rather than a blessing?

Have you been able to practice worship when encountering an unexpected wait this week?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

What other thoughts come to mind as we close our time out together? What haven’t we discussed that you would like to bring up? What do you still have questions about?