

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Time

(Jerry Fite)

As the minutes were counting down to the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014, we anticipated gleefully those final seconds when we could wish a happy new year to all. Then, those seconds came and went...time moves on. We divide the minutes into seconds and chronicle the transition from one year to the next. The Greeks have a word for this type of “time”, and it is “*chronos*”.

This Greek word finds itself rooted in our language regarding time. For example, a “*chronometer*” is an instrument that measures time precisely. “*Chronology*” is putting events together in the order they occurred in time. Look down on your wrist and many of you will be able to “watch” “*chronos*” or time silently ticking away. We can chronicle “*chronos*” but we cannot stop it. Indeed, time stands still for no man.

The Greeks had another word for time: “*kairos*”. While “*chronos*” emphasizes “*quantity*”; “*kairos*” emphasizes “*quality*”. When we say, “*we had a good time during the holidays*”, we are not talking about seconds, minutes or hours, but we are em-

phasizing the moments characterized by the enjoyable company of our loved ones or fun activities.

Paul exhorts Christians to so live their lives that they can engage in “*redeeming the time...*” (*Ephesians 6:16, Colossians 4:5*). This is “*kairos*” time, for we cannot buy “*chronos*” time. But we can live wisely before non-Christians in evil times and have an “*opportunity*” to direct their interest to Christ. While we cannot buy up seconds, minutes, hours or days; we must take advantage in living for Christ in “*chronos*” time to buy up “*kairos*” time. Be watchful faithful Christian! Those moments for the lost to seek salvation through the Gospel come in this world of darkness and despair when you are living wisely among them.

We cannot stop 15, 30 or 60 minutes from occurring, but we can fill those minutes with *reading, studying, memorizing and meditating* on God’s Word (*Revelation 1:3, Acts 17:11, Psalm 119:11, Psalm 1:2-3*). Having God’s word nearby, we can fill our “*chronos*” time with activities which feed our minds and lives with divine instruction and wisdom. These moments

with God’s word make up “*kairos*” time.

Prayer is an activity for the many seasons or times of our lives. Paul completes the Christian’s armor “*with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for the saints...*” (*Ephesians 6:18*). Praying for spiritual strength in us and in our brethren completes the armor in being strong in the Lord. But there are other “*seasons*” where time should be filled with our prayer. Giving thanks for the blessings God gives us (*I Thessalonians 5:18*); praying for rulers to be conducive for godly living through their rule (*I Timothy 2:2*); and praying for the word of God to have free course to the hearts of men (*II Thessalonians 3:1*) manifest the varied seasons where the moments of prayer are effective.

Realizing that “*chronos*” time is ticking away, and we are unable to do anything about it, may we focus our attention on “*kairos*” time which is on our side. We can create profitable seasons and quality moments by living wisely before a lost world; filling our hearts abundantly with God’s word; and praying often.