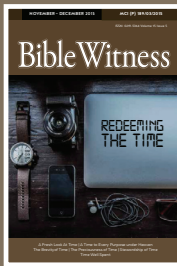


# Bible Witness



A Fresh Look At Time | A Time to Every Purpose under Heaven  
The Brevity of Time | The Preciousness of Time | The Stewardship of Time  
Time Well Spent

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*All the articles in this issue  
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#### *About the cover design*

Christians today are so occupied with the proliferation of modern digital and information devices that their time for communion with God and other spiritually profitable activities and services are forsaken.

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# *Editorial*

“Time is precious!” Have we not here and there heard that saying, every now and then? Indeed, time is precious. God expects His people to make good use of the time and opportunities that He allots to them in their lifespan, according to His will. The Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Supreme Example, demonstrated an absolute commitment to the best use of His time while on earth to fulfil the Father’s will. He said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

Christians should never spend their time in vain. The brevity of our life on earth must teach us to be wise stewards of every second in order that we may fulfil God’s will concerning us. As God’s redeemed people, there is no dignity nor profit in being a waster of time.

We are very glad that we could “recover” (or perhaps we could say, “redeem”) a series of wonderfully edifying sermons delivered by Rev Reggor Galarpe during Gethsemane B-P Church’s 2009 Church Camp, and publish the extracts of those sermons for the benefit of our readers. We covet your prayers for the ministry of Rev Galarpe, as he labours to shepherd the flock of God and teach His Word.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers:

**A Blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year!**

Joyfully in His Service,  
Prabhudas Koshy



# A FRESH LOOK AT TIME

“Time and tide waits for no man.” Time is no respecter of persons – it moves inexorably on. So what does it mean when the apostle Paul, in Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5, admonished the believers to “redeem the time”? The word “redeem” is a commercial term, which means “to buy back” or “to rescue from loss”. The Greek word (*kairos*) translated as “time” here is a fixed, definite period or season, which carries the idea of “opportunity”. Thus, the emphasis here is to rescue from loss the time that is available to us. In other words, “seize every opportunity” to make good use of time and not let it go to waste.

*above image is by deviantart.com*



Admittedly, we live in a time where people are so caught up with a leisure lifestyle. People love to ask the question: “What is your favourite pastime?” Well, there is nothing wrong to engage in some sort of productive and edifying pastime. But at times it has become a trap and a snare, as what is supposed to be a pastime has become something that takes up most of their time! So instead of having a pastime, many end up having wasted time. Believing that they have all the time in the world, they go about spending it on their vanities. It is not uncommon to see some people hanging around their favourite coffee shop for hours, sipping their coffee and “killing time”. The same applies to those who love to hang around fast food chains and shopping malls.

Indeed, if we look around, we will see much of people’s time being wasted on their vanities and tied down to some unnecessary, unfruitful activities, or worse still, engaged in worldliness and sin. Hence the need to take heed of Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 5:15-17: “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

This article will challenge us to take “a fresh look at time”. In the New Testament, there are two Greek words used which are translated as “time”. They are “*chronos*” and “*kairos*”. “*Chronos*” denotes time as a succession of moments. It can be time past, present, or future. “*Chronos*” is linear time, i.e. the continuous succession of seconds, minutes and hours. (It is the word from which the English words “chronicle” and “chronology” are derived.) “*Kairos*”, however, refers to a fixed and designated occasion for a specific action. It is the specifically given season for an event. “*Kairos*” denotes time as

a God-given opportunity, i.e. the opportune time within the framework of “*chronos*” time.

## MEASUREMENT OF TIME

### *By Natural Rhythm of the Day*

Looking back at the history of mankind, prior to the advent of the mechanical measurement of time (by the clock) and its forerunners like the sundial and the hourglass, life was lived according to the natural rhythm of the day. During the Creation week in Genesis 1, we read the recurring phrase, “And the evening and the morning”, which is followed by the first (v. 5), second (v. 8), third (v. 13), fourth (v. 19), fifth (v. 23), and sixth (v. 31) days respectively. Aside from being the Scriptural evidence for the six literal days of Creation, it also tells us how time is measured by affirming that a day is that span of time equivalent to the passage of an evening and a morning. Daytime and nighttime determine the day!

Interestingly, the Jews practise the dividing and measuring of time by night “watches” and “hours” of day. Nighttime is divided into four watches: first watch – “evening or eventide” (6-9 pm); second watch – “midnight” (9 pm – 12 am); third watch – “cockcrow” (12-3 am); and fourth watch – “morning” (3-6 am). The Lord Jesus, in describing His second coming to the disciples, distinctly referred to these 4 divisions of nighttime in Mark 13:35 – “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning”.

Likewise, daytime is divided into 4 quarters, identified according to its last hour: third hour (6-9 am); sixth hour (9 am - midday); ninth hour (12-3 pm) and twelfth hour (3-6 pm). We see a reference to this time arrangement in the parable of “the labourers in the vineyard” in Matthew 20:1-16, where a householder hired labourers “about the third

hour” (v. 3), “the sixth and ninth hour” (v. 5), and even “the eleventh hour” (v. 6). Then time was measured in generally large “blocks”, with the work ceasing at nightfall, which is affirmed by Jesus Himself: “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). The Lord Jesus further gave an insight into these time divisions in John 11:9 when He answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.” Evidently, daytime is made up of 12 hours. And with another 12 hours for the night, it makes up a total of 24 hours in one day!

### *By Clock Time*

With the advent of the clock and watch, time is measured in smaller units – firstly by dividing it into 24 hour-period time units, then into minutes, and then into seconds. With the clock measuring time in precise units, such an efficient measurement of time enables many people to manage their myriad activities and responsibilities according to a schedule. As a result, man has become more conscious of how and on what he spends his time. This has affected man’s attitude towards time, which in turn has brought about different perspectives and views on time.

## WORLDLY PERSPECTIVE OF TIME

The following are three commonly observed worldly, self-centred and self-indulgent views of time, which reflect the godless perspective of man.

Firstly, one common attitude towards time is expressed in the cliché, “time is money”. It views time as an economic entity which exists to allow us to earn money. This is often the slogan or motto of the financially-

driven, profit-oriented individuals and business entities. Secondly, many people feel that time belongs to them personally; they do not have to give an account of how they use time. This attitude makes them feel that they are in charge or in control of time and that they have all the right as to how they would spend or misspend time. Time is thus spent according to their whims and fancies. Thirdly, most people view time as in the present only. The past has no bearing, and neither has the future, as long as they are enjoying the present. This attitude is very prevalent in our time, where people live their lives as if there is no tomorrow and without eternity in view. This “care-free” attitude towards time is best portrayed in the “Eat, drink and be merry” philosophy of many people today.

## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF TIME

In contrast to the secular and worldly perspective of time, the Christian attitude towards time should reflect the understanding that it is a gift from God. God the Almighty Creator is the source and giver of life. As the length of our days is in His hands, realize then that time is a gift from God. Someone has said, “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why it is called the present!” Since we begin and end each day with no promise of another, each day we are given is a gift. Thus, we ought to thank the Lord for each and every new day!

Time is something that is entrusted to us by God. True, we may work hard to expand the opportunities at hand and extend the impact of our endeavours done in a given time, but ultimately the number of our days is determined by God. Every day is given to us as a grant or trust. As recipients of time, we are therefore stewards of God’s gift.



## RIGHTFUL RESPONSE TO GOD-GIVEN TIME

Viewing time as God's gift brings about far-reaching implications in our life. It brings about an acute awareness that we are not in control of our time – we are simply allowed to use it. It instils in us humility before God; being constantly reminded that He is the Creator and we His creation, we realise that without Him we can do nothing. It also drives home the understanding that we ought to spend our time on things that please God.

With this Biblical understanding and view of time, how should our response be? Firstly, we are to treasure time, not because it is gold or money, but because it is God's precious gift. Time is thereby too precious to be wasted on worldly and sinful activities, things that have no eternal value, or anything that does not glorify God.

Secondly, we must make good use of time on things that exalt and glorify His Name. Among other things, we ought to spend regular time in prayer and reading / studying God's Word, participate actively in church activities (like prayer meetings, fellowship gatherings and Bible studies), and serve the

Lord with gladness in whatever capacity God has appointed us.

Last but not least, we are to accept time with a grateful and thankful heart. Every moment of our life is something sent from God – be it distressing or delightful, it is something that God has designed and purposed for us. As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:14, "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." On the same note, the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

## CONCLUSION

With this God-centred and God-honouring perspective of time, may we learn to value the time that God has given us, by living our lives and spending our time only on things pleasing and glorifying unto God. As Paul puts it, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."



"Place a high value upon your time, be more careful of not losing it than you would of losing your money. Do not let worthless recreations, idle talk, unprofitable company, or sleep rob you of your precious time. Be more careful to escape that person, action or course of life that would rob you of your time than you would be to escape thieves and robbers."

- Richard Baxter -

# A Time to Every Purpose under Heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Time is the “arena” wherein all human activities run their course. Time is the space wherein we exist. In the opening chapter of the Bible, we read of the infinite and eternal God doing the work of Creation within a specific time frame which He Himself created – “the evening and the morning” or the 24-hour period that we call “day”. Everyone is given 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 4-5 weeks per month, and 12 months per year. Through this cycle of days, weeks, months and years, man spends his time “under the sun”, up until his appointed time of death. Thus, it is called “lifetime” – that time frame from birth to death.

## Recurring Human Activity “Under the Sun”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 is a very well-known Scriptural passage on the subject of time; in fact, the word “time” appears 29 times in vv. 1-8. One central theme that runs through the whole book of Ecclesiastes is the writer’s observation and realisation of the vanity of life lived “under the sun”. This recurring phrase occurs more than 30 times in the book’s 12 chapters.

In chapter 1, Solomon speaks of life on earth as an endless cycle of repeated events which never progress in a meaningful



direction. “All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:8-9). In chapter 2, we read of his discovery that all his pursuits and undertakings did not bring about the satisfaction he had sought after. “Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit” (Ecclesiastes 2:17).

Now in chapter 3, Solomon begins with this famous passage whereby he pondered upon the series of events that God so ordered to happen “under the sun”. Notice here the wide range of human activity that comes in contrasting pairs: birth / death, planting / plucking, killing / healing, breaking down / building up, and so on, each of which has its place and season in life.

Incidentally, this passage is often misunderstood and thus misapplied by many who view it as the Scriptural basis for the need of “quality time”. They overemphasise v. 1 – “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” – by claiming it to mean that people ought to aspire to a well-balanced schedule. Such an all-encompassing schedule, which includes times “to laugh”, “to dance” (v. 4), “to embrace” (v. 5), “to love” and “of peace” (v. 8), seems appealing – until one has also to include “a time to kill” (v. 3), “a time to hate; a time of war” (v. 8) as well. Clearly, this passage does not give provision for our endeavouring to go about doing all these things. Solomon here is simply outlining his observation of the wide range of human experiences that recur generation after generation, which are also commonly observable situations that do happen in our lifetime. The crux of the matter is: What is the point of it all?

## Time Spent Apart from God is Futile Endeavour

Solomon, in his pursuit for meaning and the good life, comes to the conclusion that time spent “under the sun” is a futile endeavour apart from God. In the eyes of the world, he was a great “achiever”. We read in Ecclesiastes 2:1-10 of how he gave himself over to the pursuit of knowledge, the acquisition of earthly treasures, and the enjoyment of worldly and sexual pleasures; he was also into civil works, massive infrastructure, etc. Yet, his grim assessment was: “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun” (v. 11)!

Today, we see many people immersed in their pursuit of worldly treasures and pleasures, material prosperity and success, fame, honour and recognition. If they fail to achieve their ambitions, they would be frustrated and discouraged. Even those who make it end up feeling discontented and still desiring for more! Feeling empty and hollow, many succumb to various forms of sinful activities in search of pleasure and satisfaction, getting into vices like gambling, drinking, drugs and sexual immorality. Some, in desperation, even choose to end their own life! Such vanity and futility of life apart from God have been constantly played out in the lives of numerous rich and famous celebrities. Though adored and idolised by many, their external glamour tend to mask untold family shame, personal controversies, emotional pain and great emptiness.

Unfortunately, Christians are not exempt from getting sucked into vain earthly pursuits either, which will leave them with grievous “vexation of spirit”. No wonder the Bible clearly tells us to “set your affection on things above (the sun), not on things on the earth (under the sun)” (Colossians 3:2). Even the Lord Jesus warned in Matthew 6:19-20, “Lay



not up for yourselves treasures upon earth ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven", lest our energies and efforts be exerted in vain.

## Time Aligned with God's Will Gains Purpose in Life

Since God is the Author and Giver of life, it will be to our good if we submit our lives to His will and purpose. Only then will our life be fruitful and meaningful. Our time, when spent for the fulfilment of God's purpose, will gain significance. That is the very reason why God created us, and is the very purpose of our being. Aligning ourselves with and pursuing God's will should be our goal in life. This is unequivocally asserted by the Westminster Shorter Catechism's answer to Question 1: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

Admittedly, before salvation, many of us have spent our time in vain, chasing after the rudiments of the world, engaging in unwholesome and unfruitful activities, indulging in vices and sinful habits, and being in bondage to various forms of addictions. Now after conversion, we have newness of life and light from God's Word to seek after God's will. Yet because of the many trappings and snares of the world all around us, we may unwittingly fall prey to unhelpful activities and lifestyles that draw us away from full devotion to God. If we are not careful and discerning, even seemingly "harmless" endeavours like our pursuit of a career, business undertakings, choice of leisure and relaxation, can hinder us from serving God. That is why we must heed Paul's admonition: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Even if we exert much of our time and energies serving the Lord in the ministries of the church, we are not entirely free from vanity either. There is a need for an honest

examination of ourselves, especially our motives. We may be involved in the children's ministry, evangelism, youth fellowship, and in various other committees, yet it behoves us to ask ourselves probing questions: "Why am I doing this? Am I doing this to glorify God, or am I doing this to gratify myself or just to please others?" When not done for God's glory, all our labour and time spent in the church ministries would be nothing but vain. The biblical guiding principal ought to be: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

## Conclusion

Going through all the changing scenes of this transient life "under the sun" is indeed challenging and tough, to say the least. It can be at times harrowing and hurting, while at other times painful and sorrowful. If we go through life failing to acknowledge that everything that happens to us, happens not by chance, but according to God's sovereign will and purpose, our existence can seem bewildering and frustrating! We may not know exactly the reason why something happens, for "no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end" (Ecclesiastes 3:11b); but we should know that it comes with God's higher purpose.

It is only when we acknowledge that everything happens by God's design that we gain a clearer understanding of time and the occasion for "every purpose under heaven". Come what may, "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28), when we accept our lot as occasioned by God's purpose according to God's appointed time. Then and only then can we say like Solomon, "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11a).





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“Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” – *Jeremiah 6:16*

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# THE BREVITY OF TIME

Psalm 90 is a prayer of Moses wherein we find the contrast between the brevity of human existence and the eternity of God. Moses exalts the LORD as he ponders on His eternity, expressing awe at the thought that before anything came into existence – from eternity past to eternity future – He is God (v. 2). In contrast, man’s life is likened to a flood (in its swiftness), to a sleep (in its briefness), and to the grass (in its fleetingness since it grows up in the morning and withers in the evening) (vv. 5-6).

## OUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

Our life on earth is lived out within that short span of time that God has allotted unto us, to which we cannot add. We “spend our years as a tale that is told ... for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (vv. 9-10). Truly, time on earth is short!

### *Time is Fleeting*

Like the shadow and the dew, time appears for a moment and is gone the next. “For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding” (1 Chronicles 29:15). “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is

your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).

Time’s fleetingness draws attention to its shortness. “LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee” (Psalm 39:4-5). “Handbreadth” is the measure of length based on the width of the palm of one’s hand – symbolic of our life’s brevity.

### *Time Swiftly Passes By*

Moreover, time slips away so easily. The ticking of the clock is a constant reminder – the seconds fly so fast and soon turn into minutes, with the minutes giving way to hours, and hours into days without interruption. It just keeps on going; time won’t wait for us even “for another minute”! This fact is corroborated by Scripture – “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and are spent without hope” (Job 7:6); also “my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good” (Job 9:25). Little wonder why we often feel that there is not enough time in a day to accomplish everything that needs to be done.





[HTTP://WWW.ACTIVISTPOST.COM/WP-CONTENT/  
UPLOADS/2015/09/HOURLASS.JPG](http://www.activistpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/hourglass.jpg)

### *Time is Easily Lost*

On the other side of the coin, time often appears to be so abundant to some that it does not seem to matter much if they squander some of it. This is particularly true of the “slothead”, whom the book of Proverbs condemns for being lazy and wasting his time away (Proverbs 6:6-11). We must vigilantly guard ourselves against such slothful attitude. Remember that time is even more valuable than money, as no amount of money can buy us time. And lost time can never be regained – once it’s gone, it’s gone forever!

### *Time Will Surely Come to an End*

One more sobering fact about time’s brevity: time spent on this earth will soon be over as God has appointed. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Truly, “the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10). We may be in our prime today and our end may seem anything but near, yet the fact remains: our time sooner or later would be over. Disasters and calamities the world over are constant reminders of how short and transitory life is. Indeed, there is a time limit to our life on earth, which is not in our control.

## SO LET US NUMBER OUR DAYS

Realising this, what then should our attitude be towards our limited days? Moses, after his contemplation on the brevity of his lifetime, expresses his petition in v. 12 – “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

To many people, to “number our days” means to practise time management. Thus, we have planners, timetables, checklists, calendars, post-its, “to-do” lists, appointment

books and electronic organizers that require us to assign priorities, set goals and plan daily. No doubt, all these have helped many, but managing our time is more than just plotting our appointments and activities – it involves keeping careful watch over how we spend our time, which in turn is governed by how we set our priorities. It means optimizing the time available to us in our planning, and deciding which activities deserve more time and which deserve less. In a way, to “number our days” does not simply mean counting our days, but making every day count!

Many people find themselves busy with many things in a day, only to realise that they have missed out on something which is often the most substantial matter of the day. Yet others struggle in getting things done and find it difficult to accomplish everything that they need to do, complaining in the end that they do not have enough time. Perhaps they wish they had a 36-hour day or a 8-day week, or wish they could be like Joshua who was granted the request for “the sun to stand still” (cf. Joshua 10:13), in order to finish the job. Be that as it may, the problem is often not a lack of time, but the unwise use of our time. If we find ourselves struggling to accomplish something because of what seems to be a shortage of time, it could probably be due to our failure to “number our days”!

## POINTERS INVOLVED IN NUMBERING OUR DAYS

To “number our days” would involve the application of the Biblical principles that can be drawn from what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:15-17.

### *Walk Circumspectly [v. 15]*

There is a need for us to walk “circumspectly” (or “carefully”). Unlike a fool who walks carelessly as if he is going to live forever, we must be wise enough to realise that our limited time on earth is entirely in God’s

hand. In the gospels, we often read of Jesus rebuking those who (like the rich fool) fail to realise this. What is the use of all our wealth and possessions if our life were to end today? Our time on earth is limited. Year after year, we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. While these are occasions of rejoicing, they are also reminders that our “numbered” days are actually coming closer to the end. We never know how much time God has given us to live or how quickly it will all end.

That being so, using this life as preparation for life eternal, living our lives and using our time with eternity in view, is true wisdom. Everything here is passing away, so we must not get settled down here as if this is our home. Life is too short to be careless and indifferent to spiritual things. Be awakened and commit your life to serve the Lord. One day, we would have to give an account to God on how we have used our time. The wise use of time prepares us for eternity.

For the unbeliever, now is the time to make that wise decision to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus – to confess one’s sins, to believe in Jesus and to receive Him as one’s Lord and Saviour. Time has been wasted, and it will matter throughout eternity how time here is used to respond to Christ. Once that line has been crossed, there will be no second chance!

### *Understanding the Will of God [v. 17]*

Being wise in the use of our time presupposes that we be wise to discern the Lord’s will for us. We must see time in terms of God’s purpose for us. Time problems occur when we try to do things apart from God’s will, and live our lives according to our own fancy. Whenever we find ourselves cluttered with so many things to do and not able to accomplish anything, we should perhaps ask ourselves: “What is this that I’m busy with? Have I been busy for the Lord?”

Wise use of time provides a way of walking carefully before God and of proving His will. Ignorance of God’s will is folly, whereas an acquaintance with God’s will and a commitment to comply with it speak of true wisdom. It is not uncommon that people seem to value time most when they sense that death is near. It is when time is almost gone that many would look back with regret, saying, “I should have done this, I should have done that.” Such remorse is indicative of one’s inability to discern and pursue God’s will in his life. He who has lived his life walking in wisdom and understanding the will of God, ought to be able to say like Paul, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

### *Redeeming our Time [v. 16]*

Finally, to “number our days” requires that we make the most of our time “redeeming the time”, or (literally) “buying the opportunities”. The Bible challenges us to do so by making the most of the time God has given us. We must see time as opportunities, availing ourselves of whatever opportunities that come our way to do good in the midst of our present predominantly evil times. We must also realise how vulnerable we are to the devil’s schemes when it comes to the use of time. If Satan can fool us into making bad use of our time, he would be successful in minimizing our effectiveness for the Lord and His church!

## CONCLUSION

Dear readers, time is swiftly passing away. The brevity of time means that opportunities are passing by quickly; we either use them or lose them! Let us ask God to help us allot our days wisely in the light of eternity. May we use the time and opportunities that God has bestowed upon us wisely for His glory, “while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1)!



# THE PRECIOUSNESS OF TIME



Time is, without doubt, a valuable and precious commodity to many people. We are all familiar with the following terms drawn from the world of commerce which stress the great value of time – “buying time”, “investing time”, “managing time”. People even go to the extent to say, “Time is money!” To be sure, time is far more precious than money and gold. If you lose money, you can always earn it back some other way. But time is not a renewable resource. Whatever time we lose will never return again. Every day we are given the same number of hours, but we may not have the same opportunity again. That is the very reason why we must make the most of our time, taking advantage of every opportunity to accomplish something profitable, lasting and glorifying to God; in short, “redeem the time”!

The preciousness of time means different things to different people. To some, time is precious in relation to how much they would earn. They would come up with figures and statistics, and extrapolate how much money they would earn if they work x number of hours. Some would even calculate how much every minute (or second) is worth. That becomes their driving force! Yet others consider time as precious in relation to how much time they spend for leisure, holidays and tours. Many consider these things as the precious moments of their life. Feeling that they deserve a break from their hard work, they deem these to be an essential part of their timetable; they cannot do without them!

## Reasons Why Time Is Precious

In contrast to such worldly views, those who are spiritually instructed should know better. Time is truly precious for the following precious reasons:

### *It is a Gift from God*

As we owe even our breath to God, the Giver and Sustainer of life, our time must be seen as a gift from God. Like the rest of God’s precious gifts, time ought to be treasured. If we realise that we begin and end our day with no promise of another, then each day we are given is a gift, which is too precious to be squandered on our vanities. Our failure to appreciate the preciousness of God’s gift is one of the reasons why much of our time is wasted.

### *It is Brief*

As we think of our time compared to eternity, it is like the twinkling of our eyes or a flick of our fingers! As God’s people, think of the great work that we have to do in this brief span of time that we have. The work is just so great and full of challenges that we can ill afford any time for laziness or idleness. The Lord sets the example in John 9:4 – “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Furthermore, we simply have no idea how little there is that remains in our time. Whether it be several years, or a few months or weeks, or even a day or a portion of a day, we really cannot tell. “LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am” (Psalm 39:4). If people knew that they have but a few days more to live, they would surely treasure all the time that is left!

### *It Can Never be Regained*

Many things, when lost, can still be obtained again. Even if you lose money, you can regain it in some other way. Not so

with time – once it's gone, it's forever gone! Countless people would (on their deathbed), in retrospect, express their regrets on how they have squandered their time, and missed out on countless opportunities to serve the Lord, be fervently involved in church activities, and even spend more time with their family. The reality remains: there is no chance to regain time that is lost. Thus, the Bible exhorts us to “redeem the time”. True wisdom requires us to “buy up” or “rescue from loss” the present time available to us. Time is too precious to be wasted on things that you know must be repented of. Don't end up regretting on your deathbed!

### *It Has a Bearing on Eternity*

Now, time is the period in which we are to prepare for eternity. In the parable of the rich fool, the rich man, because of his bountiful harvest, thought of building bigger barns for all his produce and goods, while at the same time thinking to give himself a treat, saying: “take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” But what did God say unto him? “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be...?” (Luke 12:16-20).

If we have eternity in view, there are 2 vital matters we should not neglect. The foremost is the matter of our soul's salvation. “For he (God) saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). Closely associated with our salvation is the matter of service. We are saved to serve and live for God. God will judge and reward what we have done for Him and His church while we sojourn on this earth. “For we must all appear before the

judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). It goes without saying that time on earth is all that we have to serve God, “for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave” (Ecclesiastes 9:10b).

### **Reflections on Use of Precious Time**

At this juncture, a little personal reflection on how we spend our time is in order. Granted, the church is made up of people from different age groups: children, youths, adults, seniors. Some are in the prime of your life – will you give much of your time to the world or give the best of it to the Lord? Those who are almost or already halfway through the average “threescore years and ten” ought to look back and see how much time you have really spent wisely or squandered. Others, who have become parents, ought to consider if you have spent quality and meaningful time with your family, nurturing the children, strengthening family bonds, loving and cherishing your spouses. Above all, spending quality (and quantities of) time together in the study of God's Word as a family (including family devotions and church camps) should be part and parcel in the use of our precious time.

There may be yet others who are already advanced in years, having gone through many experiences in life, some of which could be regretful while some memorable and fruitful. Nevertheless, as the psalmist encouraged himself in the Lord, “Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come” (Psalm 71:18). With the remaining



precious time you are left with, you still can serve the Lord – even when you are old!

We all have to give an account of how we use our precious time. The question is, how much of it can be considered beneficial, fruitful and productive, and how much of it vain and empty? All of God's children were once spiritually blind and lost in sin, but now are found by Christ, having been called out of darkness into His marvellous light. Notwithstanding our past (wasted years of) vices and sinful habits, now that God has given us "new life" in Christ, may we treasure it by committing our time to doing things that are pleasing and glorifying unto God. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast

off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:11-14). Time is just too precious to be squandered on worldliness and sin!

## Conclusion

As some wise person has succinctly put it, "Time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all our possessions." May we then be wise in the use of our time. It is not a question of "how much time do we have?", but rather "what shall we do with our precious time?"

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# The Stewardship of Time

The Bible tells us that life is given by God. But unlike any other gift, it is a gift over which the Giver retains sovereign control. Thus, life (i.e. time given to live that life) is a stewardship from God. The original word translated as “stewardship” literally means the “management” or “administration” of a household.

The practice of stewardship is seen in the context of ancient Eastern households. The head of the house – when his duties and nature of work require him to be away from home – would choose the most qualified and trusted of his servants to serve as his “steward”, to whom he would entrust the entire running

of the household affairs while he is away. Thus, a steward is a man of responsibility and authority. Though a servant, he could exercise authority and make decisions regarding the household in his master’s absence. The steward rules over all the other servants and is often the teacher of his master’s children. And when the master comes home, the steward is asked to give a thorough account of everything. One classic example in the Bible was Joseph during his time in Potiphar’s household. Joseph was so well-favoured by Potiphar that he was put in charge as his steward, with authority over everyone in the house except only his wife.



## Accountability Involved in Time Stewardship

Similarly, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). A conspicuous characteristic of a steward is he does not own anything, just like a manager of a business does not own the business nor its money but is responsible for managing all the available resources and opportunities for the owner's benefit. As “stewards”, we don't own our time, talents or money. Some are given a long time to live while others very brief. Some are endowed with exceptional talents; others have very modest abilities. Some possess great amounts of money, yet others have to make do with very little. But all are responsible for what God has given them and must one day give an account of how these have been used.

Hence, stewardship is thus the wise and responsible use of one's God-given resources. It involves faithfulness in the use of one's talents, treasure and time, as “moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). And stewardship of time would mean the proper and wise management or administration of our time.

As such, being chronically late is actually careless use of time. This notorious problem of habitual tardiness is unfortunately widely tolerated among us. This mismanagement of time reflects a mismanagement of ourselves to live up to our word. When we promise to come at 10 am, we ought to come at 10 am or slightly earlier. Realise that time (either yours or others' due to waiting) is too precious to be wasted on habitual tardiness. Being considerate is to be disciplined to come on time, especially so when our appointment is with the Lord in the time of worship. Remember, “habitual lateness dishonours God”!

## Biblical Applications of Time Stewardship

We have learnt that the word “redeem” means to “buy up” or “make the most of”. Making the most of our time is to “buy up” the golden opportunities that come our way, and not let them pass by unused or neglected. Now, what kind of opportunities is Scripture talking about?

### Opportunities for Christian Witness

In the immediate context of Paul's injunction of “redeeming the time” in Colossians 4:5, he spoke of a “door of utterance” (Colossians 4:3). He was speaking of the need to “speak the mystery of Christ”, i.e. the opportunity to preach the Gospel and to enhance evangelism efforts. Biblical stewardship of time is making full use of every opportunity to share the Good News of salvation through Christ, and preach the Word of God. It is never allowing “open doors” to pass by unattended. To neglect such opportunities is to fail in our stewardship, and thereby failure to “walk in wisdom toward them that are without”. Let us, by the grace of God, stand united and support our preachers and church leaders in the work of the Gospel.

### Opportunities for Christian Growth

We read of the same exhortation in Ephesians 5:15-16. Again, looking at the immediate context, we see Paul admonishing the Ephesian Christians to build up their Christian character and to promote the purity of the church. “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). Paul was telling them to take every opportunity to grow and mature (both as individuals and as a body of believers) as they discern God's will in their lives. The only way is through knowing God's Word; in other words, read the Bible! Commit

yourself to a systematic study of God's Word – don't skip Sunday School, come for Bible study, attend theological night classes, etc. Redeem the time!

### *Opportunities for Christian Fellowship*

Furthermore, Paul exhorts, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:19-21).

Wise stewardship of time includes availing ourselves of every opportunity for Christian fellowship (including worship). Paul here is saying believers are to encourage and edify one another, and even come together for worship. Coming for fellowship meetings, prayer meetings and worship is a privilege and duty that should never be neglected. Proper stewardship of time gives priority to such activities, which are God-ordained means of grace. To become too busy to join these church activities is tantamount to failing in our stewardship. This is corroborated by Hebrews 10:24-25 – "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

### *Opportunities for Christian Charity*

In Paul's exhortation to the Galatians, we find another injunction of "buying up" every opportunity. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians

6:9-10). Whenever opportunity arises, we are to "do" that which is beneficial and useful to others, especially to fellow believers. Good stewardship of time certainly behoves us to bear one another's burdens, including even extending material or financial assistance to those who are in dire need. Assuredly, in so doing, we would have a sure reward from God "in due season"!

### *Opportunities for Christian Service*

Finally, hear the words of our Saviour Himself while He was on earth: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). The Lord Jesus was up and about doing the work of His teaching and healing ministries. In this passage, we find Jesus on the verge of healing a man who was blind since birth (John 9:1). He was probably alluding to His impending death when He said these words. While the "day" is the generally accepted time to work and the "night" the time of rest, here the words "day" and "night" refer (figuratively) to the life of Jesus and to His coming death. It is like Jesus was saying: "I must work before my life comes to a close." Hence, good stewardship of time entails the conscientious taking advantage of every God-given opportunity to serve and minister while time permits us and while we still have life (cf. Ecclesiastes 9:10)!

## **Conclusion**

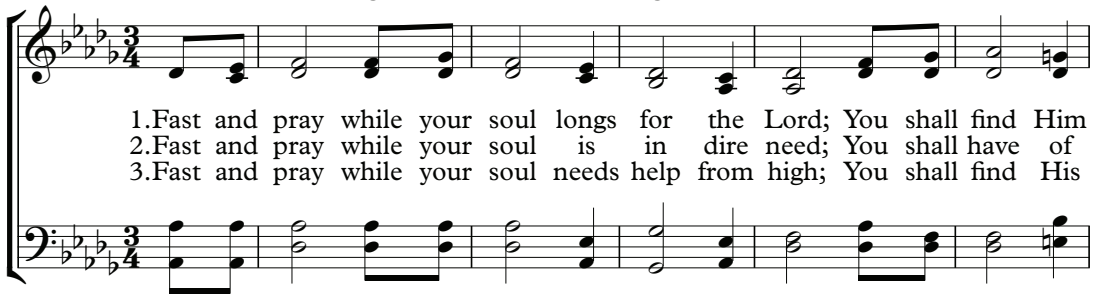
Dear brethren, our time on earth will come to an end one day. And we will be asked to give an account of how we have invested the gift of time given to us. We will be asked how well we did in redeeming the time and making the most of the opportunities God has sent our way – in short, our stewardship of time. What will our answer be?



# A New Song Calling Christians to Fast & Pray


Lyrics & Music  
Prabhudas Koshy

D G D G A D E<sup>o7</sup>



1. Fast and pray while your soul longs for the Lord; You shall find Him  
2. Fast and pray while your soul is in dire need; You shall have of  
3. Fast and pray while your soul needs help from high; You shall find His

6 D G D<sup>7</sup> G A



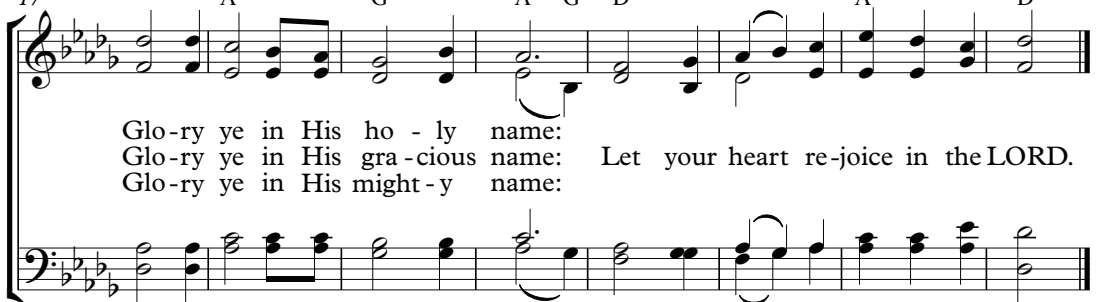
if you seek the Lord. Set your heart and soul to  
Him that which you plead. Set your heart and soul to  
strength as He draws nigh. Set your heart and soul to

11 D G D A<sup>7</sup> D



call on Him. Let your heart re-joice as you come to Him.  
ask of Him; Let your heart have faith as you come to Him.  
wait on Him; Let your heart re-joice as you come to Him.

17 A<sup>7</sup> G A G D A<sup>7</sup> D



Glo-ry ye in His ho - ly name:  
Glo-ry ye in His gra - cious name: Let your heart re-joice in the LORD.  
Glo-ry ye in His might - y name:

Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church & Bible Witness Media Ministry  
Arranged by Dorcas Koshy





# Time Well Spent

Every one of us gets an equal amount of time – 24 hours, i.e. 1,440 minutes or 86,400 seconds – to use in a single day. However, not every one of us gets to spend them equally well. It is very important that we resolve to make good use of our time available and make every opportunity count.

It is said that to spend our time well is to spend it for something that will outlast it. And this brings to mind the chief end of man. According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism's answer to Question 1, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Doubtless, that which will outlast life and that to which we can give our all, is that which is glorifying unto God. Indeed, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). The very purpose of our being is to glorify God in all that we do. So, anything that we do which is glorifying to God is certainly time well spent, which ought to be spent in the following aspects:

## Our Profession of Faith

Hebrews 10:23-25 exhorts: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering... And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another ..." We must see to it that we and our family be found in God's house worshipping God and fellowshiping with God's



people on the Lord's Day. The purposeful act of worshipping the Lord, not only on the Lord's Day and at designated weekday meetings but also every day through family devotions and prayer, is time well spent. Do not neglect family worship and devotions due to the busyness of the day. As the saying goes, "a family that prays together stays together", we should see that the "profession of our faith" (through the various means of grace) be given priority in the family's daily timetable.

## *Our Sanctification*

1 Peter 1:16-17 reads: "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear". We are to live our life on this earth in holiness and in reverential fear unto God. Our manner of life must be pleasing and acceptable to God. In this regard, we need to consciously avoid 2 ensnaring "time-wasters".

### *No Idleness*

There are people who love to spend their time idling away and doing nothing; they love to "think", "imagine" or "dream" their time away! While there may be times when we find ourselves in a state of rest and relaxation, we must remain vigilant to guard our hearts and minds from wandering into anything sinful. As "an idle mind is the devil's workshop", it is during our unguarded moments that the enemy would strike. Rather, we should take heed of Philippians 4:8 – "whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report ... be any virtue, and ...

praise, think on these things." Time spent on "these things" is time well invested for our progressive sanctification.

### *No Indulgence in the Flesh*

Galatians 5:16 admonishes us to "walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." This we must constantly do so that we may not succumb to indulging in the flesh! Sadly, we see many so-called Christians being consumed by the lust of the flesh, yielding to immorality, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, drunkenness and revellings. Yet others have given in to the pride of life, manifested by envying, hatred, malice, strife. Time spent on such is a slippery slope to doom. Rather, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:13-14).

## *Our Vocation*

While vocation generally refers to our work and occupation, here we take it to mean our "vocation" or "calling" (cf. Ephesians 4:1) pertaining to Christian service. From Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), the important lesson is that we must be responsible to use what we have been given for what we are supposed to do, to the fullest of our ability and within the time frame that we have. The vocation of the Christian matters to God, who intends for the Christian to do the most with what he has been given to do.

God's manifold grace has given His people a diversity of gifts and abilities. "So

we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..." (Romans 12:5-6a). Whether it is the gift of singing, or of playing musical instruments, or of teaching, or of comforting and encouraging, or of serving other people, or of soul-winning, are we making good use of our entrusted gift or are we simply keeping it to ourselves? Our spiritual gift is not for our personal satisfaction; it is given to us for the sake of others. Do not give the excuse that we have "no time" to be involved in the various ministries of the church. Realise that time spent in Christian service is time well spent, as it makes us a blessing in the body of Christ.

## Our Great Commission

While many Christians and churches today have long omitted the work of evangelism from their schedule of activities, with many thinking it a waste of their time, the fact is that the time we spend in evangelism is time well spent. Think about it, the work of evangelism is in obedience to the Lord's Great Commission to preach the Gospel for the salvation of souls for God's glory. We should consider every opportunity to witness for Christ as a great privilege; it is never a waste of time – even if we do not see those contacts end up coming to our church services. For all we know, after reading the Gospel tract or hearing the Gospel shared by us, some of these might subsequently repent from their sins and come to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We may not be seeing them coming to our church, but we may be surprised to see some of these people in heaven. Salvation is all of the Lord!

Besides, the Lord has been leading newcomers to our church services – people who may have been reached out to previously by other conscientious Christians. Some eventually would become regular worshippers in our church services. So, never discount or despise any such evangelism effort. How about you? When was the last time you joined the church for evangelism? Realise that the time spent in doing the Lord's work is time well spent. The same applies for the work of missions.

## Conclusion

Having considered many things about time, "see then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15). We must walk conscientiously so as not to fall into sin. We must be cautious to guard ourselves from the allurements and temptations around. Realise that we are in the last days, which are perilous times, "for men shall be lovers of their own selves, ... incontinent, fierce, ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-4). To walk circumspectly in these "evil days" is to "from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5b).

Wisdom in the use of our time requires us to "buy up" our fleeting moments out of the hands of idleness and laziness, out of worldly pleasures and preoccupations, out of sin and our soul's enemy, the devil! Our time must be "redeemed" to be spent only on things profitable and glorifying unto God, so that at the end of the day, we shall hear God's commendation: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant". That means that our time on earth would have been truly well spent!





## AMY CARMICHAEL (1867-1951)

### Missionary to India Part 1

(Retold from "Trial and Triumph: Stories from Church History", written by  
Richard M. Hannula, published by Canon Press;

"With Daring Faith", written by Rebecca Henry Davis, published by BJU Press)

Retold by Jenny Lok

Illustrated by Linus Kok

**A**my simply loved being at Millisle, Northern Ireland, where she lived with her parents, and her younger brothers and sisters. Oftentimes, she and her siblings would enjoy playing in the snow, catching frogs and bugs or boating in the sea. Occasionally, they would get into some mischief and Amy knew very well that they would be promptly punished. Mr and Mrs Carmichael would certainly see to it that their children remained obedient at all times, particularly being punctual for their daily family devotions.

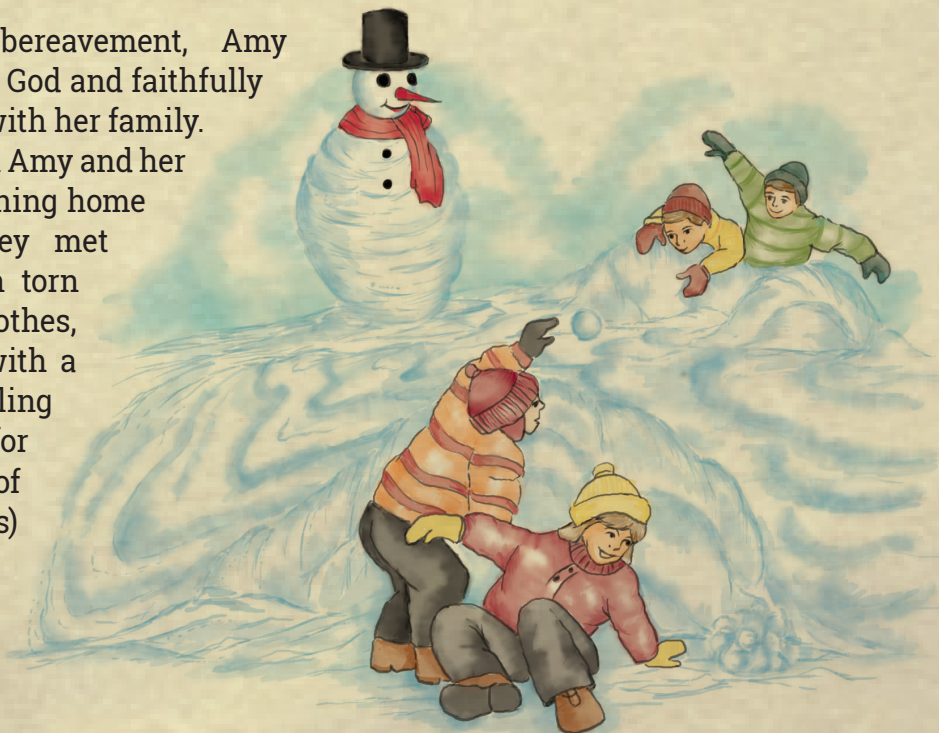
At an early age, Amy was able to thank God for many things, especially for her loving and God-fearing parents. However, she could not really praise God for her own brown eyes, which she felt were dull and ugly. She secretly wished that her pale brown eyes would somehow turn blue and clear as the blue sky above the Irish coast! That would surely complete her joy! Besides, each time she looked at her mother's sparkling blue eyes, her desire for a pair of lovely blue eyes grew even stronger.

One night, Amy could not contain herself. She knelt down and prayed, "Dear Lord Jesus, please make my eyes blue. Amen." Early next morning, Amy rushed to the mirror, fully expecting to see her new dazzling blue eyes. To her

utter disappointment, what she saw were the same two brown eyes, as dreary as ever. Amy was both sad and confused. "Why wouldn't God give me blue eyes when anyone could see that they're better than brown ones?" she asked. Mrs Carmichael patiently explained, "Amy, remember one thing. Jesus loves you very much. Since He gave you brown eyes, you can be sure that brown eyes were right for you." She also reminded her daughter that God does answer prayer and sometimes the answer is a "no" - "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). Amy certainly learned a precious spiritual lesson that day!

In 1880, when Amy was 13 years of age, her parents arranged for her to study at the Marlborough House, a boarding school for young ladies in Yorkshire, Northern England. It proved to be a turning point for her, for it was here that she really knew Jesus as her personal Lord and Saviour. Through a visiting preacher, Mr Edwin Arrowsmith, Amy realised that it was not enough to believe in Jesus and to love Him as a special friend. She needed a Saviour to cleanse her from all her sins and save her from eternal hell. Without delay, Amy committed her life fully to Jesus. After 3 years at Marlborough House, Amy left because her parents could not afford to pay her school fees any more. Shortly after, the Carmichael family moved to Belfast, a city in Northern Ireland. Sadly, in 1885, they faced a sudden crisis. Mr Carmichael suffered from pneumonia and became very ill; on April 12 that year, he went to be with the Lord. Only 17 then, Amy's faith was severely tested, for overnight she had to take care of her younger siblings and share her mother's burdens.

Despite her bereavement, Amy continued to trust God and faithfully attended church with her family. One Sunday, when Amy and her family were returning home from church, they met an old woman in torn and tattered clothes, being burdened with a heavy load. Feeling rather sorry for her, Ernest (one of Amy's brothers) suggested going forward to help her. Another brother, Alfred,



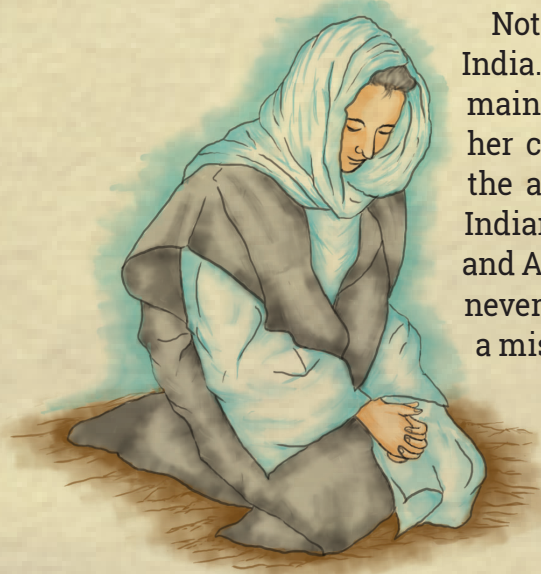


joined them. Together, they helped her with the bundle and supported her with their arms. All this while, Amy felt terribly awkward because this was not a common sight in her community of respectable churchgoers. Some of them stared at the Carmichael children while others frowned upon their effort to help the poor lady. At that very instant, 1 Corinthians 3:12-14 came to Amy's mind: "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." Amy felt ashamed because she knew she did not help the old lady for the right reason. From that day onwards, she decided that whatever she put her hands to do, she must do so with the right motive, that is, to glorify God - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

From then on, Amy greatly desired to serve God and she began organising regular Bible studies as well as prayer sessions for the neighbourhood children in Belfast. Through these, she reached out personally to some very poor girls with the Word of God. Her heart went out to these girls who were often shunned by the respectable people in the church. As much as Amy would like to serve God, her poor health, due to her neuralgia (a disease of the nerve), would sometimes cause her whole body to ache and she had to be confined to bed for days or even weeks. Despite her physical affliction, Amy felt the burden to minister to millions of Asians who were still living under the bondage of sin. She prayed to God about her desire to be a missionary and also talked over the matter with a family friend, a godly elderly Christian man named Mr Robert Wilson. She finally heeded God's call and Mrs Carmichael was more than happy to give her blessings.

Not long after, on 11 October 1895, Amy set sail for India. What she knew about India had come mainly through Sunday story-telling sessions in her childhood days. The speaker would describe the amazing ways God saved the souls of many Indian people who had never heard of Jesus before, and Amy had always listened with rapt attention. It never crossed her mind that one day, she would be a missionary to the people of India!

*(to be continued)*





# Bible Trivia - Exodus 25

Sarah Yong

(A) Read verses 10-22, and then fill in each blank with a suitable answer.

- 1) The \_ █ \_ \_ \_ was the primary unit of measure in the Old Testament. It was based on the length of the forearm, from elbow to the tip of the middle finger.
- 2) The children of Israel were instructed to make an ark of shittim wood according to the measurements given, and cover it with \_ \_ \_ \_ █.
- 3) Wooden \_ \_ \_ \_ █ \_ would be put through the rings by the sides to allow the priests to carry the ark, for no man was allowed to touch it.
- 4) They also had to make a mercy seat of pure gold, with two golden \_ █ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , one on each end.
- 5) Their outstretched \_ \_ \_ █ \_ would cover the mercy seat as they faced each other.
- 6) This mercy seat would be placed above upon the \_ █ \_.
- 7) The LORD promised to meet and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ █ \_ with His people from above the mercy seat.

(B) Complete the sentence below by placing each highlighted letter of the answers above in the boxes provided (in that order).

The Ark is commonly referred to in the Bible as the Ark of the

█ █ █ █ █ █ █ T

## ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA - EXODUS 25-31 & 35 (VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4, P. 35)

- |             |           |              |            |             |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 1) spirit   | 2) jewels | 3) garments  | 4) onyx    | 5) memorial |
| 6) covering | 7) olive  | 8) anointing | 9) priests | 10) pure    |

A stylized, dark brown silhouette of a church building is centered in the background. It features a cross on top, a bell tower with an arched opening, and a wide, flat roof. The entire graphic is set against a lighter brown background.

# GETHSEMANE B-P CHURCH BUILDING FUND

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**510 Geylang Road, #02-06, Singapore 389466.**)