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## THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

### THE PASSAGE OF TIME

Speaking from personal experience, as one grows older, he reflects more upon the passing of time, especially how quickly it seems to pass. When one is young it seems that he or she has all the time in the world. But with age one realizes that his or her time on this earth is growing ever shorter. The Bible refers to the passage of time in the words, “in the process of time it came to pass...” (Genesis 4:3).

The writer of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes tells us that “there is a time for every purpose under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). Yet, to accomplish any purpose requires one to be diligent in the proper use of his or her time. The New Testament calls this “redeeming” or “buying up” the time (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). This is the opposite of wasting time, that is, filling one’s time with useless or empty pursuits. The best use of one’s time is to use it to prepare for what comes after time is no more. Time will cease to exist with the second coming of Christ. In writing of the resurrection of the dead at the second coming of Christ, Paul stated, “But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. **Then comes the end**, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:23-24). The only time in which any of us have opportunity to prepare for eternity is now, in the present time. The Bible declares in 2 Corinthians 6:2b, “...Behold, **now is the accepted time**; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.” None of us are assured of tomorrow. The book of James pictures life as a vapor (steam) that appears for a little time but then quickly dissipates and is gone (James 4:14). With the passage of time comes the passing of opportunities. Once time is gone so is any opportunity for receiving the forgiveness of sins. Following death or the judgment there will be no second chance.

Dear reader, God allows you to be in charge of your time. You can choose to waste your time in the pursuit of the temporary pleasures of sin which leads to eternal punishment in hell (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Or you can choose to use your time in accepting the salvation that is “in Christ.” How you use the passage of time will determine where you will exist in eternity. Prepare now by obeying the gospel, letting the blood of Jesus wash away your sins (Hebrews 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).