



TIME “Friend or Foe?”

By C.W. “William” Wood

September, 1998

In Luke 21:19, the Lord Jesus made a statement that is so drastically important to us in these days of rush and stress. Surely He was looking down through the ages and saw us **PRESSED FOR TIME** and hurried by the evil one into a place of confusion and distress. Who of us has not been made to think that the **PASSING OF TIME** is against us, and that we will run out of **TIME** before we have completed the work that is before us. The truth is, it is not we who are running out of **TIME**, but the enemy himself.

In a few words the Lord taught a very powerful doctrine when He said, in Luke 21:19, **“IN YOUR PATIENCE POSSESS YE YOUR SOULS.”** He said, in effect, patient people are in possession of their souls, and we can rightly conclude that He was **ALSO SAYING THAT IMPATIENT PEOPLE ARE NOT IN POSSESSION OF THEIR SOULS.** We do know that we are to possess our souls for God’s Glory. That is to say we must be in control of our earthly vessel.

If we do not possess our souls and turn them over to the Lord through the practice of patience, then through our impatience we turn them over to the evil one.

Rom. 6:16, **“Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves ser-**

vants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey. Whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.”

The statement our Lord made in Luke has all to do with our subject of **TIME**. This is so because the practice of patience has to do with the passing of time. A spiritual definition of **PATIENCE** will be helpful at this point. *Patience is the ability to wait with perfect peace of heart and mind while time passes without the expected attainment, or promise, having come to pass no matter how long it may tarry.*

PATIENCE and **FAITH** are so closely related that the definition of one does, in fact, fit the other. Patience knows that God’s Word is eternal and that the passing of **TIME** cannot dim it nor cause it to fade away. Faith knows the same thing. Patience knows that the promised will of God shall come to pass sooner or later. Faith knows the same thing.

These things being true, then we can conclude that **PATIENCE** is a product of **FAITH**. **PERFECT** faith puts no time limit on God, neither does **PATIENCE**. We have

asked the question, “Is **TIME** our *friend*, or is it our *foe*?” For many of us in days past, it has been our deadly enemy! This is so because we have allowed the passing of **TIME** to erase the Word from our minds. But let it be said that to do so is exactly contrary to God’s instruction. We are told to **“WAIT upon the Lord and He shall save thee.”** (Pro. 20:22) And **“Blessed are they that WAIT upon Him.”** (Isa. 30:18) Again, **“They shall not be ashamed that WAIT on Me.”** (Isa. 49:23) And still again **“Therefore turn thou to thy God keep mercy and judgment, and WAIT on thy God continually.”** (Hosea 12:6)

Over and over the Lord admonishes us to wait on Him. Isa. 40:3 **“They that WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”** To **WAIT** upon the Lord means to ignore the clock and calendar as far as the promise is concerned. It is at this point that **TIME** becomes our enemy. Being impatient and creatures of time through our natural birth, we detest waiting for anything. Therefore, before we are taught by the Spirit, we are easily led into forsaking the promises

when they tarry past the TIME limits we impose on the Lord.

The truth is that TIME could not have been inserted into God's program had He not intended to use it for good. God intends to use TIME to build great faith in us. The longer we wait for the Word to be manifested before it actually happens, the greater our faith when the battle in the mind is over. On the other hand, when the enemy uses the passing of TIME against us and causes us to forsake the promise, then faith is injured.

In Eden, before the sin, there was no such thing as TIME. Adam and Eve were *eternal beings* with *eternal bodies*. TIME started at the same moment sin was introduced. Even as the sin was being committed, their body cells began to deteriorate. God had said they would die, and so they did. Their *spiritual death* was instant. They were separated from their Creator. Their *physical death* was slower, but TIME took its toll and they died.

There are many deliverances a Christian needs to experience, and it is the opinion of this writer that deliverance from TIME is one of the greatest. Our Father allowed TIME to be introduced, but He did not intend for His people to be bound by it. God dwells in *eternity* and has set out to deliver us from this thing of TIME. We are to start thinking in terms of *eternity*. What we need is a mind change from creatures bound by TIME to a people in whose minds TIME has no hold. Once our minds have been renewed by the Word and we have the revelation that our *inner man* is eternal, then our deliverance has started.

We will begin to see that the enemy who constantly uses TIME to pressure us and who insists that we don't have TIME to do the things

we should, is in fact lying to us. It is he, himself, that is running out of TIME and not us at all. Our Lord never rushes us in the things He gives us to do. We can mark it down. Anytime we are being pushed and shoved, and rushed and hurried, it is not our Lord, but the enemy.

God wants all our work done well and has before creation allotted us enough TIME to do it. Who of us has not been frustrated by the passing of TIME as we look at the work before us. Who of us has not been made to feel that we are running out of TIME concerning our work, as we watch the clock and calendar? Who of us has not lost our grip on a promise because it did not come in the TIME frame we had allotted it?

QUOTE: STATURE OF A PERFECT MAN, PAGE 35, "Patience with what? What kind of patience? First thing is have patience with God. If you have real genuine faith you will have real genuine patience, because faith worketh patience. When God says anything you believe it. That's all! You have patience then. Well, I asked Him last night to heal me, and I am just as sick this morning! Oh my! What patience! God told Abraham (He would give him a son.) and twenty five years later there wasn't even a sign, but he still believed it. He was patient with God." (End quote)

How often we preach that God must have patience with us, but a prophet came and said, "We must also be patient with God."

QUOTE: THE INFLUENCE OF ANOTHER, PAGE 7, "As the Prophet said, **They that wait upon the Lord, they shall renew their strength. They shall mount**

up with wings as an eagle. They will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint." Lord teach us how to WAIT after we have asked and? have faith to know that you heard, and in your own good TIME you will send our answer right down the Golden Stairs from the Corridors of Heaven right into our soul. And we shall receive what we ask for because we believe it." (End quote)

I wonder if we realize that one gauge of our spirituality is the length of TIME we can wait on God without casting away our confidence!

Heb. 10:35, **"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For you have need of patience, that after you have done the will of God ye might receive the promise."**

Here again God speaks of the TIME element. To manifest patience has to do with the passing of TIME. He said the promise will bring the reward if we will learn to wait for it. We can remember, as new Christians, how the Lord answered many of our prayers quickly. Was that not because in our early stage we lacked patience and he dealt with us as babies? But, as we have grown to adulthood, He has required of us that we learn patience and faith through waiting.

Everything in the natural world is geared to try and keep the people from having to wait. We have instant food service at the drive-in windows. The one who can serve the quickest meal will have the most business. In the grocery store, the ones who check you out quicker will draw the most trade. We have instant pressing service for our clothes, stand in a barrel so to speak, while they press your suit.

Much of the food is instant, just add water and heat. Modern people will dodge anything that causes them to have to wait. We want it

now. Do we realize that this is Satan attacking us about the TIME element? God's doctrine is, "wait upon the Lord." Satan's doctrine is "Don't wait for anything." This doctrine of Satan has come into the Church so that we refuse to wait on God's TIME to fulfill His promises.

To wait on God, proves Christian character. To refuse to wait, proves the lack of it. The longer we wait on God without casting away our confidence, the greater our faith will be when the waiting is over. The Lord has set out to produce a faith in His Bride that no amount of passing TIME can destroy. After eight hundred years, the promise concerning a virgin bearing a Son was just as sure as it had been on the day it was made. Nothing could stop it. God had spoken!

Satan trying to stop a Word of God is like the little ant on a railroad track who boasted he would stop the great diesel locomotive. He climbed up to the top of the rail, stood on his back legs and raised his feelers into the air and when the train had passed, the rest of the ants couldn't even find a greasy spot where the presumptuous little ant had stood.

If we could just have a revelation and see Satan as a presumptuous little ant standing on the platform of TIME trying to stop the WORD OF God! God's Word cannot fail, ever, for those who can win the battle with Satan about the TIME element.

God told Noah he would destroy the world by a flood. Noah worked for years on the ark while preaching the coming deluge. I can believe that Satan knew Noah had prophesied correctly. I can also believe that he used the TIME ELEMENT to persuade the whole known world that Noah was wrong. But TIME had not changed the prophecy. The rain did come, the mountains did go under, and those who supposed that

TIME could change the Word drowned. They had been duped by Satan.

Unless we learn to let the Lord control the timing of His answers to us, we will never be overcomers. God requires that we wait on Him, but we set our own TIME limits. Helped along this road of impatience by the devil, we decide that we have waited long enough and attempt to take matters into our own hands.

But, there is a way for us to be overcomers in this battle concerning TIME. It is simply to place all TIME into the Lord's hands! Our prophet taught on this subject.

QUOTE: SHALOM, PAGES 23-24-25, "Changing the pages, or changing calendars doesn't change (God's) TIME." (We must disregard our watches and calendars in order to believe God. He will not change His TIME schedule to fit ours.) ".....Do as David did, put your future into His hands, don't look to anything else." (Don't put your timing to the fulfilling of His promises.) "David said here, 'My TIME is in His hands.' You notice here in the Psalms where we read it. Ps. 62, 'My TIME is in His hands. He is my ROCK.' What is He? He is revealed to me. He is the revealed truth. MY TIME IS IN HIS HANDS!My TIME belongs to Him. I am His. I am in His hands because he holds the TIME. I don't know what the future holds, but I know He holds the future. So, He who holds the future (concerning all TIME) holds me." So why should I think about setting forth this, that, or the other for the new year? I just put myself in His hands, walk like David did. My TIME is in His hands. He knew God held the future. David didn't know what the future was, but he knew God had the future."

CONT. QUOTE: PAGE 24, "Patience. Patience. Some of us get in such a hurry. I think a many a good man has done that. You get in too much of a hurry, you want to see. You want to do it yourself."

PAGE 25, "We are creatures of TIME. He is the God of Eternity. We try to press ourself, (set the TIME ourselves). We try to make something different, (change God's TIME). Oh, this has got to be done! Remember, He knows all about it. It's going to happen anyhow. Let Him do it (in His own TIME). Just commit yourself to Him." (End quote)

How then are we to be delivered from the lies of Satan concerning TIME? We do it by placing the rest of the TIME we have on earth into God's hands. Truth is, as the prophet said, it is in His hands anyway, and when we have committed the rest of our lives to Him, then we are delivered from TIME. TIME is not to be our concern, but His!

That is not to say that we will not die physically if the Lord taries, but it is saying that TIME loses it's strangle hold on us as we commit the hours, days, weeks, months and years to our God. We will be able to resist the pressure that Satan brings us.

We have all suffered as Satan has told us, "There is no TIME to do the job as you know it should be done. There is no TIME to stop and rest or eat. There is no TIME to pray! There is no TIME to visit those people that you feel to visit! There is no TIME to read the Word just now! No TIME to wait on the Lord about your next move or planned program!" On and on we could recite his lies as he uses TIME to confuse and frustrate us.

Especially in the realm of Divine Healing is the Devil active in using TIME against us. He would have us to cast aside the promised healing when it doesn't come within our own TIME frame. No doubt we have all been guilty of this. We don't realize what we are doing when we allow the passing of TIME to pull us off the Promise. But in reality we are denying the ETERNAL QUALITY of God's Word when we think the passing of TIME hinders a promise.

Satan uses TIME against us by teaching that there should be a TIME

LIMIT on all waiting. God teaches that although thousands of years may pass, the Word of promise is still new and fresh in His mind. It cannot dim because it is Eternal. The enemy often says to us, "You are not trusting. You do not have faith or the answer would have already come." This is his attempt to use TIME against us.

TIME will remain until God has finished with it. TIME came in when sin started and will go out again when sin has ended. TIME shall be no more when our God has totally destroyed sin from the earth. Until that day comes, God continues to use TIME for His own purposes.

Ecc. 3:1, "To every thing there is a season and a TIME to every purpose under Heaven. A TIME to be born and a TIME to die. A TIME to plant and a TIME to pluck up. A TIME to kill and a TIME to heal. A TIME to break down and a TIME to build up. A TIME to weep and a TIME to laugh. A TIME to get and a TIME to loose. A TIME to keep silent and a TIME to speak. A TIME to love and a TIME to hate. A TIME of war and a TIME of peace."

In spite of God's testimony above, that He has all TIME in His hands, unspiritual man is still at war with TIME. He constantly races against it. The ambulance races through the streets, racing against TIME. The doctor in the operating room races against TIME. The expectant mother races down the road trying to beat the stork. The business world is in a race

with TIME to see who can produce the most goods in the shortest TIME.

The quality of our work often suffers because of the TIME element. We don't take TIME to do a job right.

The TIME element, if not overcome, can give us ulcers. Our calendars and our clocks can ruin our health as we rush about day and night to stay on schedule. That is not to say that we shouldn't meet our appointments on TIME, but there is a way to do it without allowing the enemy to rush us. Our Heavenly Father is not in a rush. Neither does He intend for His Children to be bound by that spirit. How could there be such a thing as IMPATIENCE if we did not allow Satan to bind us with his TIME limits?

Our Father set all TIME LIMITS before He ever allowed it to enter His Kingdom in Eden. "To everything there is a season and a TIME to every purpose under Heaven." (Ecc. 3:1) In setting His TIME limits, He has already given us all the TIME we need to serve Him without having to RUSH about. We must take our TIME out of the hands of the devil and put it back into the hands of our God. Until we do, we will remain impatient creatures who are not in possession of our own souls.

The whole natural world is geared around this thing of trying to SAVE TIME. But we can't save it. TIME waits for no man. We can only OVERCOME TIME by using all of it we need to serve our Lord without being RUSHED and PUSHED.

Can we imagine the Lord Jesus saying to His Disciples, "We must RUN the rest of the way to the city of Sychar to Jacob's well, for I have an appointment there with a woman of Samaria, and I don't want to miss her. (John 4:1-7) No friends, when the scripture says that, "He must needs go through Samaria.", because He knew He was to meet a predestinated seed there, He also knew that He was not in a RACE WITH TIME in order to keep the appointment.

Those who have been delivered from the TIME RACE know that they cannot get off of God's predestinated schedule. Everything will work out according to the way He planned it. Jesus did not arrive at the well early, neither did He arrive late. He was there at His Father's TIME and did so without any rush or confusion.

The race with TIME is killing many of God's people by degrees. We are being stewed in our own juices, so to speak, trying to save TIME. The plane is late and we stew. Church didn't let out on TIME and we stew. Supper is late and we stew. Summer lingers on and we stew. We stew at a red light and are on the verge of a heart attack when confronted with a road construction road block. Why? Because we have not given TIME over into the Hands of our God.

In closing, we pray that no lazy, slothful person will use this sermon as an excuse to continue in their evil way. We must use TIME wisely, refusing to squander it. Only then have we redeemed it.

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