Time

Intro: Notice what the inspired writer Paul says: Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” The subject of time has always held a fascination for many; certainly all who have given it some thought and appreciation. One reason, no doubt, that it occupies such a prominent place in our thinking is that life itself is made up of time. Benjamin Franklin said, “Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.”

But what is time? It is an oft used expression but how many can give an apt definition.

Generic: The whole series of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years without reference to any specific point.

Specific: A measured period; an allotted or fixed moment.

I. Time Generically.
   A. Again look that the definition: The whole series of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years without reference to any specific point.
   B. Time, generically, is the short period in God’s divine economy that has been sandwiched between two eternities. (Eternity—Time—Eternity).
      1. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
         a. “In the beginning” of what?
         b. Time
         c. What was before time? Eternity
      2. How long will it (time) last—when will it come to a close?
         a. From one standpoint, we know not.
            (1) Mat. 24:36, 42, 44 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only....42Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come....44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”
            (2) Mat. 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
         b. However, from another standpoint, we do!
      3. Time will end with the second coming of Christ; Rev. 10:6 “And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:”
      4. Then what? Eternity!

II. Time Specifically.
   A. Again consider the definition: A measured period; an allotted or fixed moment.
   B. God has seen fit to divide that portion of His divine economy known as time into three dispensations.
      1. In each of these periods He has dealt differently with man but according to the same basic principles.
         a. Hear, believe, and obey; and you will receive His blessings.
         b. Fail to obey and you will receive His punishment.
2. Patriarchal
   a. Comes from *Patri* meaning Father, *arche* meaning rule, and *al* meaning pertaining to.
   b. The oldest father in the family served as the prophet (spokesman) of God and the priest of God (acting in behalf of them making sacrifice for their sins). He was the religious ruler.
   c. It began at Creation.

3. Mosaic
   a. Was added to the Patriarchal system at Mount Sinai and given only to the children of Israel; Gal. 3:19 “Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”
   b. The Gentiles continued under Patriarchy while the Jews lived under Mosaic Law.

4. Christian
   a. This is the age in which we are especially interested.
   b. Eph. 1:10 “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:”
   c. This dispensation is known as the “last days.”
      (1) Acts 2:16-17 “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”
      (2) Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, *2*Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”
   d. But there is going to be a “last day” when time shall end.
      (1) John 6:39, 40, 44 “And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day....44No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
      (2) John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
   e. At the last day, time will end; Rev. 10:6 “And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:”

III. TIME SPECIFICALLY TO THE INDIVIDUAL
   A. Begins at birth, ends at death.
   B. During this time we determine where we shall spend eternity.
C. **It is like a clock.**
   1. Some may run slow, others fast, and still others normally.
   2. Babies, Older people
   3. My own clock.

   Now 47:
   - if my clock is at 3:00 then I would live to be 188 (141 more years)
   - if at 6:00 then I will live to be 94 (47 more years)
   - if at 9:00 then I will live to be 62 (15 more years)
   - if at 11:00 the I will live to be 51 (4 more years)