

## IT'S TIME

What is it that we all have the same amount of but we can't experience with our five senses (hear, touch, taste, see, and smell)? To most of us, it is more precious than gold and yet we sometimes "waste it", "spend it", "pass it" and even "kill it", usually without any remorse. It takes a whole column in Webster's College dictionary to define "it". What is this mysterious thing?

It is time - our personal time - measured in minutes, hours, and days. All of us have 24 hours per day. The wise man, Solomon, said, *there is a time for every purpose under heaven* (Ecc. 3:1b). As Christians we are admonished to manage our time wisely in various ways for different reasons. The first step in managing our time as God desires is to set our priorities in order. Jesus said, *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you* (Matt. 6:33).

Paul, in his letter to the church in Colosse, used the phrase *redeeming the time* (Col. 4:5b), meaning that they were to make the most of their opportunities as they interacted with those outside the church. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, he used the same phrase, *redeeming the time, for the days are evil*, (Eph. 5:16). We must not waste our opportunities to minister to God's people and reach out to others, for some opportunities will never come again. Regrettably, when King Agrippa had an opportune time to become a Christian, he waited for a more convenient time which, to our knowledge, never developed.

Often stewardship is associated with our giving. There is more truth to the old saying that "time is money and money is time" than we generally acknowledge. Paul said the Christians at Macedonia first gave of themselves to the Lord, which would involve all their time. Then they gave their money (II Cor. 8:5). We at Karns have been wonderfully blessed as a congregation, similar to that spoken by Mordecai in Esther 4:14: *And who knows whether we have been blessed for such a time as this?* With that thought, Paul's words to the church at Rome have a resounding message we need to consider: *And do this, knowing the time, that it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed* (Rom. 13:11).

For the elders,  
Don Denton