

Reflections on the Passing of a Year

by Bill Crews

I am reminded of how a year is measured (one revolution of the earth around the sun, exactly 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds; so it has been since the beginning of time), and that reminds me of how precise is that great clock which we call the universe, the result of intelligent design, the handiwork of God -- who made it, controls it, regulates it. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; 8:3; Acts 17:24; Genesis 1:31. We set our clocks by God's perfect clock. Time is God's creation and is in God's hands.

I am reminded of how rapidly time passes, each succeeding year seeming faster than the previous one (an aging man's view). And that reminds me of the fact that my life of years is also passing away. God speaks to us about the brevity and the uncertainty of life (James 4:14; 1 Peter 1:24; Job 14:1-2; Proverbs 27:1; James 4:14; Ecclesiastes 8:8). The curtain can fall at any moment.

When I think of the passing of time, the brevity of life, and the uncertainty of life, then I am reminded of my purpose in life and of my destiny (Eccl. 12:13-14; Acts 10:34-35; Jn. 5:28-29). I am here to glorify God by reverence and obedience, and I am on a journey to eternity -- in heaven or hell!

Thinking of the brevity and uncertainty of life and of my purpose here and my destiny hereafter, I am reminded of the importance of today, of now. Time is of no consequence to God (2 Pet. 3:8; Ps. 90:4), but it is of the utmost consequence to man. Take care of the most pressing matters -- becoming a Christian, being restored to the Lord, righting a wrong, performing a duty -- now; they won't wait! If you would not throw away your life at once, then don't do it a little at a time -- by wasting moments.

The passing of the old year and the beginning of the new year leads me to reflect upon the old year. What did I do with the time? Am I a better and stronger person spiritually? Am I ready to answer to God for that year? More important than all the important happenings around the world is this: what did I do with the year? By the grace of God I can be forgiven of my sins, and resolve to do better!

The passing of the old year and the beginning of the new leads me to want to make some resolutions. I realize that a day without prayer, meditation on the word of God, thanksgiving to God, and helping someone else (especially in a spiritual way) is a day lost and wasted. I resolve to put these in each day. If I read 3 1/2 chapters of the Bible a day (or 3 chapters daily Monday through Saturday and 5 chapters on Sunday), I will have read the Bible through when this new year passes. I resolve to be a Bible reader daily. If I pray three times a day, I will have prayed 1,095 times at the year's end. I resolve to pray daily. If I attend all of the regular services and classes of the congregation, I will have spent 208 hours (not many out of the year's 8,760 hours) in them by the year's end. I resolve to attend every Bible class and every service that I am able to attend, to receive the most good from each service, and to be an asset, never a liability to the congregation.

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