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THE RIGHT TIME

Our hearts truly break and go out to all of the families affected by the horrific tragedy that took place in a school in Florida. As I have pondered thoughts of the cruelty of death itself recently in light of this tragedy, it makes me realize how there never does seem to be any such thing as the “right time” to die. While it seems to us that many have died much too young, there are others who in light of their suffering wonder why death couldn’t have come much earlier as Job did. *“Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?...For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,”* (Job 3:11, 13). Just as

there remains no timing which can in any way absolve us from the crushing heartbreak which death leaves in its cruel path, there is no certainty which any of us may obtain as to the timing of death itself.

“Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them,” (Eccl. 9:12). It is always an evil time when death comes, and can never be said “it was the right time”. Except for One. *“For while we were still helpless, **at the right time Christ died** for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good*

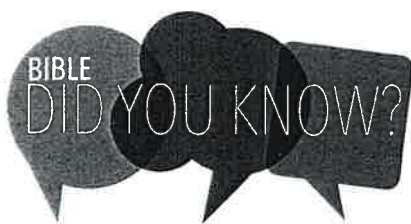
man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Rom. 5:6-8). When Jesus died, the timing of it was perfectly aligned with the very will of God. Jesus could have potentially died at various times in His life, but was kept from death until He would be handed over to be crucified. "So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come," (John 7:30). But when the time came for one of His own disciples to betray Him and hand Jesus over to be killed, the timing was just right. "And He came the third time, and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!'" (Mk. 14:41-42). It was just the right time in that it fulfilled prophetic scriptures in just the right way. "Have you come out with swords and clubs to

arrest Me, as you would against a robber? Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures," (Mk. 14:48-49). Being handed over in this way, Jesus would be put to death through the torture of crucifixion, just the right way to spill His blood in death without breaking any bones. "For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, 'Not a bone of Him shall be broken.' And again another Scripture says, 'They shall look on Him whom they pierced,'" (John 19:36-37). In dying at just the right time in just the right way, I become convinced that this was no accidental coincidental death at the hands of time and chance, but one preordained in the very mind of God to bring about a very specific intended reaction in my life: to die to the things of this sinful world, burying my sinful life in baptism through Christ, and living a resurrected life seeking the raised things that are above and not on the earth. Just as Jesus died at

the right time, there is a time to “die” as a result of the mind blowing revelation that becomes understood through the Scriptures. Today. *“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain – for He says, ‘At the acceptable time I listened to You, and on the day of salvation I helped you.’ Behold, now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘the day of salvation,’”* (2 Cor. 6:1-2). Just as Jesus died “at the right time”, the right time to “die” to the things of this world and become alive in Christ through His death is the very moment I become convicted and convinced of the Truth of meaning of His perfectly timed death. *“Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name,”* (Acts 22:16). In much the same way, as I wrestle with the inevitable questions of whether or not it was the right time for those in Florida to be taken from this life, I realize we all can be taken from this life at any time. While I will never know

when the “right time” comes for any of us to depart from this life, I do know, just as Jesus died at the right time, the right time for us to die to the sins of this world and have spiritual life in Christ is the very moment our eyes are opened with the assurance of the Truth of God’s Word. Let us all, likewise, die today to sin, as we never know when the day of our physical death will come.

– Daniel Ruegg



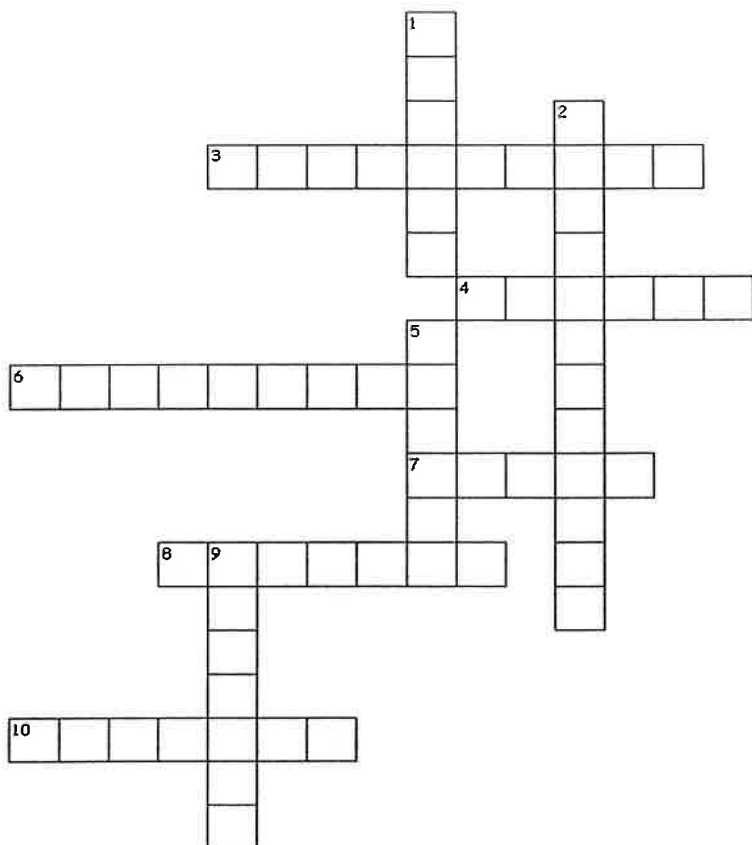
Because of the confidence we have to approach God through the blood of Jesus, the Hebrew writer has 3 “let us” phrases for us to dwell on:

- 1) “Let us draw near”***
- 2) “Let us hold fast”***
- 3) “Let us consider”***

Take a look at these phrases and find courage to take advantage of the bold access we now have to God!

Heb. 10:19-25

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ACROSS

3. Once the brother repented the punishment by the church was this (2 Cor. 2:6)
4. Paul delayed his visit to Corinth so he would not cause this (2 Cor. 2:1)
6. This kind of body is raised in the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:44)
7. The last enemy that will be abolished is this (1 Cor. 15:26)
8. We are not to be ignorant of Satan's _____ (2 Cor. 1:11)
10. Christ gives us this over sin and death (1 Cor. 15:56-57)

DOWN

1. If our hope in Christ is only in this life we are to be this (1 Cor. 15:19)
2. If this isn't possible then our faith is vain (1 Cor. 15:12-14)
5. God gave the Spirit in our hearts as this (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
9. We suffer affliction so we may provide this to others (2 Cor. 1:4)