

TRUTH & RIGHT

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AT THE RIGHT TIME

I'm certain I am not alone when I say that I have struggled with not only accepting the reality of death in this life, but also with the timing of it. As I have pondered thoughts of the cruelty of death itself recently, 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.*

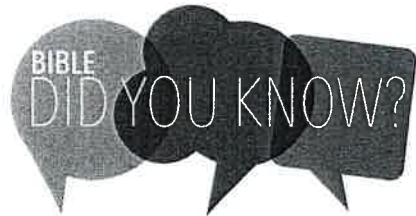
For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Rom. 5:6-8). When Jesus died, the timing of it was perfectly aligned with the very will of 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 some to be taken from

this life, I can take solace in knowing those who died to the sins and ways of this world died at the perfect time...when they became convicted and assured through the Scriptures that Jesus died for them. 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. Many died to the world at just the right time. Let us all, likewise, die today to sin, as we never know when the day of our physical death will come. “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance,” 2 Pet. 3:8-9. “For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found

naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life,” 2 Cor. 5:1-4 – Daniel Ruegg



“A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy. When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan. A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad. But he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth. The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it. A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps. By transgression an evil man is ensnared, but the righteous sings and rejoices.”
Prov. 29:1-6

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He ____ it wherever He wishes.

- a) Smacks
- b) Turns
- c) Splashes
- d) Drains

2. To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than ____.

- a) Teaching
- b) Love
- c) Worship
- d) Sacrifice

3. The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of ____.

- a) Death
- b) Stupidity
- c) Vanity
- d) Candy

4. The violence of the wicked will drag them away, because they refuse to act with ____.

- a) Selfishness
- b) Beauty
- c) Gold
- d) Justice

5. The way of a guilty man is ____, but as for the pure, his conduct is upright.

- a) Crooked
- b) Beautiful
- c) Suspicious
- d) Odd

6. Exercise of justice is ____ for the righteous, but is terror to the workers of iniquity.

- a) Punished
- b) Ignored
- c) Shamed
- d) Joy

7. It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and ____ woman.

- a) Ugly
- b) Lying
- c) Vexing
- d) Silly

8. There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the ____, but a foolish man swallows it up.

- a) Rich
- b) Wise
- c) Sneaky
- d) Industrious

9. A false witness will ____, but the man who listens to the truth will speak forever.

- a) Laugh
- b) Boast
- c) Perish
- d) Triumph

10. A wicked man displays a ____ face, but as for the upright, he makes his way sure.

- a) Confused
- b) Ridiculous
- c) Sheepish
- d) Bold

- 1) B, Reference: Prov. 21:1
2) D, Reference: Prov. 21:3
3) A, Reference: Prov. 21:6
4) D, Reference: Prov. 21:7
5) A, Reference: Prov. 21:8
6) D, Reference: Prov. 21:15
7) C, Prov. 21:19
8) B, Prov. 21:20
9) C, Prov. 21:28
10) D, Prov. 21:29