

# Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

## *Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources*



In 1714 Isaac Watts wrote the hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Based on Psalm 90, it is a hymn about time.

### **Verse One:**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

### **Verse Three:**

Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,

From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

### **Verse Four:**

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like and evening gone,

Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

### **Verse Five:**

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;

We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

## **The Resource of Time**

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back." —Harvey Mackay

God gives us the precious gift of time. How much He gives each of us is in His good and gracious hands. We have the privilege and the responsibility to steward the time He gives faithfully, wisely, and fruitfully.

Psalm 90 helps us understand the biblical perspective of time. What do the following verses teach us about time?

- Psalm 90:2
- Psalm 90:4
- Psalm 90:10
- Psalm 90:12
- Psalm 90:14

The New Testament uses two Greek words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. Chronos is the measure of exact time. Matthew 2:7 gives an example of *chronos*. *Kairos* is the appointed time in the purposes of God. Ephesians 1:7-10 gives an example of *kairos*. Josh Pauling in an online article, *Living by Kairos Time in a Chronos World*, writes "Throughout life, we should be weaving in and out of *kairos* and *chrono* seamlessly." What do you suppose he means by that? See Romans 6:1-14

Read Ephesians 5:15-16 in the King James Version. What does God mean when He tells us to "redeem the time?"

R. C. Rein, in *Adventures in Christian Stewardship*, suggests three reasons why this is so important. He writes:

"First, we need to be reminded often that our time of life on earth is short and, at best, very uncertain."

"Secondly, the admonition to redeem the time is extremely important, because the time of life granted to our fellow men, whom we are to win for Christ, is no longer and no more certain than our own."

"Thirdly, the admonition to redeem the time is extremely important because of the uncertainty of the time in which this world will end and the day of grace will be forever gone."

What else do the following passages tell us about time?

Colossians 4:5

Psalm 139:16

Titus 3:8