

TIME.

“**T**IME” is a common word, but how little we understand the meaning, and how often have we failed to value this priceless gift to God’s glory. Invisible, intangible, inaudible, but a reality! With ceaseless flow it reaches us, and all have an equal “income” of that which we have divided into 168 hours in the God-appointed week. Money can be hoarded, goods can be stored, but time cannot be kept for later use: it comes, it goes, wisely spent or mispent, employed to please God, or the reverse. While we are speaking, it is passing away. “Now” has ceased to be “now,” even as we write the word, and that which is future becomes present, and then past, almost before we are aware. Here is a **trusteeship** of greatest importance for the believer, since everything is affected thereby. Philosophy may seek to explain its relativity, but the practical experience is vital in our Christian life. “Time” reminds us that we are in a sphere of **responsibility**, and that “today” we should hear God’s voice, and seek to occupy till our Lord comes. “Redeeming the time” (Eph. 5. 16), is a message of spiritual value. The “time” becomes truly ours only when we gladly give energy, and banish listlessness, that there may be fruit for eternity.

The word preached did not profit Israel of old because it was not mixed with faith (Heb. 4. 2). How often has God laid stress on harmonious blending. Our food is normally complex: almost everything seems to be a compound. “Time” without life would be meaningless to us, and our “life” without what we signify by “time” and “space” would lack expression. Here is the open door for our heart, and all our members, to embrace the “now” of privilege, and of pleasing God.

“I have no time,” says one. The statement is unwise. **We all** have the same amount of time. The objector means, “I have something else to do,” and often there is a **choice** that excludes God’s words and reduces prayer. It is not “Have I time?” but “How am I sanctifying this holy trust?”

God still gives us earthly time, and earthly life, with its varying experiences, each day with its rising and setting sun, and its fleeting twelve hours (John 11. 9). We may well ask, Has today been richer in love to Him than yesterday, or poorer? Have we by sloth made the moments **nought** in our active life, yea, by self-choosing made them even less than nothing?—Or have they produced fruit, unto the Lord?

If “yesterday” was a failure, let not sin, once **humbly confessed**, prevent today’s victory. Deep repentance is right, but all remorse is wrong. We cannot have yesterday again, but God immediately gives us today and a new beginning.

Let the solemnizing thought that we cannot make up for any yesterday lead us to godly zeal “today,” but let it not rob us of power by occupation of mind with our shortcomings. We cannot blot out sin but God does: And He can make “today” doubly fruitful, even though it has not double time. Sin over-

ruled is never excused. But herein we see God's victory, wherein grace much more abounds.

A man's earthly years are usually less than a hundred: even in Genesis 5 none reached a thousand,—the appointed "day of the Lord" when Christ shall reign. We would not spend our early strength to build up human success, and to settle down in our ceiled houses, and then offer fragmentary service of failing years to Him Who loveth us. Rather let us see the privilege of "present time" and the joy of immediate and constant devotedness, that every day may contain words to which God hearkens, prayers that are His delight, and a spiritual fulness, in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

TEN MINUTES.

"I wish I could have that ten minutes again." So we often feel—the *ten minutes* of conversation when we were light: the *ten minutes* of opportunity with one whom we may never see again: the *ten minutes* of unconcentrated prayer, hardly to be called prayer, and so forth. The heart knoweth its own bitterness. But we cannot have the *ten minutes* again. It is gone: it has left its legacy—in our character, and that of others: it has left its mark of emptiness for the Judgment Seat of Christ. But, God is faithful: yes, "If we *confess our sins*, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We want fruit, not failure: and He graciously says, "From Me is thy fruit found." And though He does not give us the ten minutes again, a new ten minutes of opportunity is *NOW* with us, that confession of sin may lead to an absence of self-reliance, and to the presence of a confiding in Himself, that we may have present victory over the sin which so easily besets, and use the ten minutes *NOW FOR HIM*.