

FOCUS ON FAITH

TIME AND ETERNITY

It seems only a few days ago since I was sitting here at my computer writing my previous article for the Journal and yet it was five weeks ago that I composed the piece on "Friends". Where does the time go? But there is a connection.

This morning a friend sent me an email which started me thinking (no comments or unkind thoughts please!) about this month's topic – **TIME AND ETERNITY**.

Have you ever noticed that the older you get the faster time seems to pass by? Now that may just be because we live in a faster paced world than we did when we were younger. Or maybe it's because, as we advance in years, we have less energy and the world appears to be faster in comparison. Someone recently told me that the older they get, the steeper the hills seem to be!

But time is time – hours and minutes don't change their lengths. The problem is we try to pack so much into our lives and it probably has much more to do with our priorities rather than the speed of light having changed.

My friend's email posed a number of important questions which I've adapted slightly for you to ponder.

- How many women on board the Titanic declined the dessert trolley at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back and lose weight?
- How many of us men "forgot" to call home to suggest to our wife that we'd take her out to dinner five minutes after she started preparing it?
- What about the number of times our kids have dropped in to talk and sat in silence while we watched our favourite TV programme?

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- Or how about "We'll go and visit Auntie Flossie when we've toilet trained the baby" or "We'll entertain more when we get the house done up" or "We'll have a second honeymoon when the children have finished university"?

Time has a habit of running away without us and whilst I'm all for prioritising my schedule so often we miss life's loveliest moments because we're trying to cram in more than we need to.

But what's this got to do with eternity?

Well one day this life as we know it will come to an end and time will have run out. Now I'm not trying to be morbid but it really ought to be a priority on our "to do" list to think about the consequences of eternity.

Personally I think it takes more faith to believe in the "once you're dead, you're dead and that's the end" philosophy than to accept there is a loving God who wants you to spend eternity with Him.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 55 verse 6 to, "**Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.**"

Now that seems to me to be a very sound piece of advice. The trouble is the post arrives, the telephone rings, the email drops into our inbox and the moment is lost as the mundane and routine take priority over what is one of the most important questions you'll ever ask.

And the question is – "**If there is an eternity, what does that mean for me?**" The answer will have a profound impact on you not just in this life but in the eternal life that is to come. Whilst I may have questions about what eternity "*looks like*", I do know that God has already demonstrated the extent of His love for us. By allowing Jesus, His own Son, to die for us, God showed how much He values a relationship with us – now and in eternity.

Maybe it's time for you take (or even make) some time to think about eternal consequences



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