

There's a time for everything

Wouldn't it be great if there were more hours in the day?

What person hasn't complained about not having enough time? Sometimes it seems that the clock is the number one enemy. But if we think about it, we see that all of us have the same 24 hours that we need to organize. Very often we make the mistake of doing what interests us most and then there is not enough time for other tasks and necessary activities.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon mentions 26 different activities that people do and he says that there is a time for each one: a time to be born, to die, to plant, to uproot, to mourn, to laugh, to be silent, to speak and many more things. Of course, not all the activities that a person in this day and age performs is included in these 26 verbs, but the list demonstrates a very important truth in that we must achieve a balance and not put aside or neglect what is most important.

How many illnesses are the result of bad eating habits or of working without taking the time to rest? Wars, political issues, divisions and arguments within the family are generally the product of not knowing when to speak and when to be silent, or when to be uncompromising and when to yield.

For the person who seems to be tired of his job, it is necessary to emphasize the urgency of a way out, a walk, or a change of direction together with the family. In contrast, for others it is necessary to

elbow them and show them their watch (or calendar) in order to remind them that it's time to get back to work.

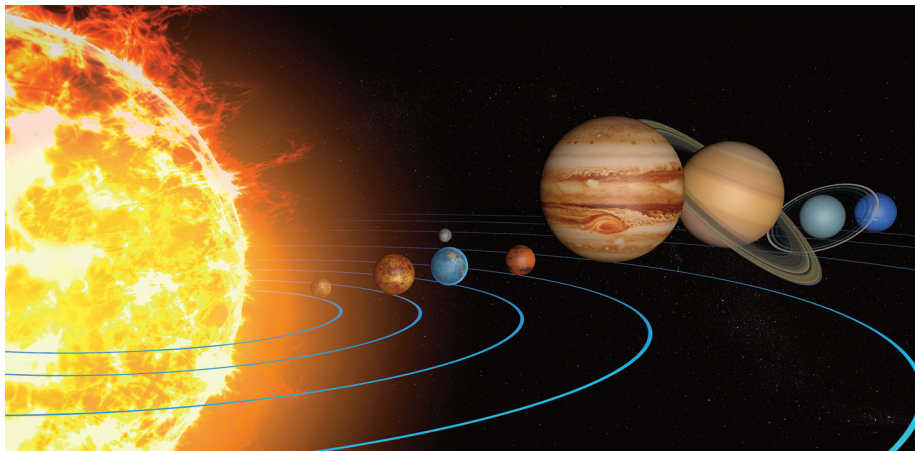
Solomon ends his list of actions with the contrast between time and eternity. He speaks of what God has done for mankind, saying, *"You have put eternity into their hearts"*. This refers to the fact that



something exists in our souls that connects us with eternity and causes us to long for eternal life, although for now we are living in the present. Therefore our "clock" should have time, an hour, set apart to consider and think about spiritual truths and what we should be doing in respect to those truths. Has your clock stopped without reaching that hour?

In reality, every hour should have a spiritual focus, whether at work or in your studies or entertainment. This is how we discover true happiness. The Apostle Paul told the Christians in Colossae: *"Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters"* (Colossians 3:23). □

God in space



In the year 1957, the first man-made satellite was launched into space. There were those that proclaimed that this was the end of the belief in a supernatural God who created the universe.

When the Sputnik was put into orbit, they declared that this demonstrated how mistaken religious organizations are and had been when they spoke about creation. It was said that “we who do not believe in God will create our own heaven and we will fill it with our own rotating planets and moons”.

Five years later when they lost a rocket that had been shot into space, an atheistic dictator commented: “Our rocket has passed in front of the moon and is nearing the sun and we still haven’t discovered God.”

In reality there were atheists before satellites were invented and what they could have found in space surely would not be accepted as proof that God exists.

Since the year 1957 people have put hundreds of satellites into orbit. They’ve made special trips into space, including visiting the moon. Yet, in no case has the belief in God diminished, but faith in His existence has actually increased.

Scientific discoveries throughout the centuries have overruled superstitions, but to a greater

degree, have shut down the appeal of scientific theories. Today books on science from years ago seem like myths. Novels based on science fiction from times past, today are considered reality.

It is interesting that no discovery or scientific development has been able to discredit any statement that the Bible has made. Neither has it been able to change any declaration of the Christian faith or make it outdated. Could it be that those who claim that there is no God just want to live their lives at ease and without any cares of this world? Or do they deny His existence because they fear that one day they will need to give an account to Him?

However, amidst modern discoveries and scientific progress, researchers who have their hope and confidence in the God of creation find a confirmation of their faith. They see the wisdom and faithfulness of God. How amazing He is! And wonder of wonders! He knows each of us individually and desires that we know Him.



The transforming power of Jesus Christ

Mentioning the name Davo in the territory of a native tribe, the Auca Indians, in Ecuador in the year 1970 always made people tremble with fear.

Years ago a missionary was willing to face the dangers and arrived with the message about Jesus Christ at Dayuno, the small village where Davo lived. The great warrior listened, but continued to be arrogant, rebellious, brutal and even threatened to kill the missionary.



Nevertheless, he later surrendered himself to Christ. He accepted God's forgiveness and gave his life to the Lord. All those around quickly noticed the great change. Instead of threatening and frightening people, Davo demonstrated love and began to work for the good and benefit of others. Two days after this tremendous, immensely important decision, he was baptized and became a member of a small church in Dayuno.

Davo explains the changes with these words:

"Before, my life was heavy and burdensome, as if my body was filled with enormous rocks. Now I have a joyful life, "llena de luz". After seeing the transformation of their leader, many of those in the tribe have also demonstrated the same courage and have received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

During the first century there was an extremely religious person with an exceptional zeal to destroy Christianity. So much so that he gave his approval to have Stephen, a fervent Christian, stoned to death. His name was Saul of Tarsus.

Yet one day while he was busy carrying out his persecution of Christians, he was walking towards the city of Damascus, which was in the north. At that time he was surrounded by a brightness so intense that he fell to the ground. This was nothing in comparison to the voice that told him that he was not only persecuting Christians, but he was actually persecuting Jesus.

The voice, coming from Jesus Himself, completely changed the direction of Saul. It didn't take long before he became a totally different person. This is the story of the man who became the Apostle Paul. □

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Where is Hell?



In order to answer that question, we need to go to a source with authority and that source is the Bible.

The Bible does not disclose the specific location where hell can be found. In reality, it is not the place that is most important, but what it implies and signifies. When we read in the gospels what Jesus said about hell, as in the case of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke, chapter 16), we see that hell is a place where those who are in it are conscious and aware. We also observe that hell is a place of eternal torment.

This is not a pleasant topic, although it is very important because it seems that many people are unaware of its danger, nor do they understand what it truly involves. Jesus Christ, in the gospel of Mark, chapter 9, tells us the following: *"If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out."*

According to Jesus' words, we realize that it is necessary to escape hell. We need to prepare ourselves in order to never arrive there.

Just like when we know there is a shooting at the corner of our street and we logically do everything possible to stay away from such a place, we also need to stay away for this place of danger and torment called hell.

Only Christ saves us from hell. The gospel of John, chapter 3 says: *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who disobeys the Son will not see life, rather, the wrath of God is on him."* In chapter 5 of the same gospel of John, Jesus says: *"Truly, truly I say to you: he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me, has eternal life and will not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life".*

Those of us who have Christ are saved from hell and do not need to fear it. When Christ has become the priority in our lives, He provides us with the wisdom to choose the right path that gives us assurance and eternal life.

Have you been saved from hell? Do you already have Christ in your heart? Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ for him to take control of your life? If you haven't made this decision yet, now is the time. ☐