

## GOD DOES NOT USE A TIME-CLOCK!

**Today's Text: 2 Peter 3**

### **Extracts:**

***But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years, as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat... Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwell [2 Pet. 3: 9-13]***

General Sani Abacha was the military President of Nigeria, 1993-98. He was a ruthless dictator who was not swayed by both internal and international condemnation of his human rights record. He censored the press and imprisoned the opposition. His plan was to return the country to civilian rule by October 1998. However, he wanted to succeed himself! He allowed the formation of five political parties, all of which nominated him as their Presidential candidate. In June 1998, two months to the said election, Abacha went to bed one Sunday evening and did not wake up on Monday morning. He had died in his sleep. In May 1999, one of his famous prisoners, General Segun Obasanjo, was sworn in as the first democratically elected Christian President of Nigeria.

Many of us behave as if we have control over the time at our disposal. For example, we plan our future activities as if we have control over everything. Bosses are deliberately sitting on the promotion and welfare of some of their subordinates as if they can control all things. What we tend to ignore is that God is in control and He does not use a time-watch!

In today's study, Peter reminds us that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day [2 Pet. 3: 8]. How can we as believers appreciate this for our good? Today's study looks at this matter.

## 1. Background: Why God does not need a time-watch

I was on the phone recently with a close friend. He was in Lagos (Nigeria) and I was in Los Angeles (USA). He greeted me with “Good evening” and I replied with “Good morning.” When I looked at my watch, we were eight hours apart. When we communicate with God, do we have such a time gap consciousness? I doubt. With God, a day and a thousand years are one and the same. Yet, we relate to Him as if we are in the same time zone.

When God wanted to create man, He said, “Let Us make man in Our image according to *Our likeness*” [Gen. 1: 26]. It follows that, of all creatures on earth, only human beings share God’s spiritual quality. If that is the case, why do human beings want to behave like earthly creatures instead of heavenly beings when we relate to God? We are impatient because we are looking at our wristwatches to set our work pace. We steal and cheat because we are paying attention to our life-clocks.

If we are made in the image of God, we do not need a time-watch because God does not need or use one. Here are some reasons why:

### 1) *It is for our own good!*

Peter writes, “Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering towards us, not wanting that we should perish, but that all should come to repentance” [2 Pet. 3: 8-9]. If time does not mean anything to God and He made us in His image and likeness, then it is for our good to pay more attention to our relationship with Him than our day-to-day pressures. We will worry less about our health and wealth and other human concerns that monopolise our daily attention span.

### 2) *The Day of the Lord comes unexpectedly*

Peter writes, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night” [v. 10]. In other words, end times will come unexpectedly, the same way a thief’s attack comes unexpectedly. For example, on Christ’s return to the earth to judge the world, “of that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,” but God the Father only [Matt. 24: 36]. Therefore, we need to focus more on “holy conduct” and “godliness” [v. 11]. We need to focus less on when to live or die, pass or fail, become rich or be threatened with poverty. We need to stop cutting corners instead of waiting for the Lord’s plan.

### 3) *Righteousness dwells in the new heavens and a new earth*

The day of the Lord will usher in new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells [v. 13]. There is no room for the unrighteous or the

wicked in the new world. Is that not worth looking forward to for the rest of our lives on earth?

From the foregoing, it is clear that those who focus on everlasting life with God pay less attention to material things on earth. Instead of using a wristwatch, they will focus on the righteousness of God in everything that they do. What are the implications of such a life style for us?.

## 2.Implications for us

The following implications should be noted:

### 1) *We are made in God's image and likeness*

Only humans are made in God's image and likeness. That is a very rare privilege which should be reciprocated. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth [**Jn 4: 24**]. He who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption; he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life [**Gal. 6:8**]. Therefore, we must learn to relate to God spiritually.

### 2) *We are to live by faith at every age*

. As believers, we walk by faith, not by sight [**2 Cor. 5: 7**]. Therefore, we should not give room to walking by age or location or human influence. Look at the lives of believers covered in the Eleventh Chapter of the Book of Hebrews. They walked by faith, not by sight.

### 3) *Be patient always*

Patience means waiting for things to happen according to God's plan. For example, Abraham was 75 years old when God told him that he was going to have the child of promise [**Gen.**]. Isaac was not born until Abraham was 100 [**Gen. 17; 21**]. God told the prophet Habakkuk [**Habak 2: 2-4**]:

*Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him. But **the just shall live by his faith.***

From the foregoing, it is clear that ***we need patience to walk with God. He does not use or need a wristwatch when He walks with people of faith. Therefore, we must learn to reciprocate.***

### **3. Conclusion: Wait for Christ's return!**

On the day that Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples, “Lo, I am with you always- even to the end of the age” [**Matt. 28: 20**]. He is with us as long as we walk by faith and in righteousness. He is with us if we do not walk by our wristwatches of human pride and unrighteousness. In His Father's house, there are many mansions. He has gone to prepare a place for us so that we shall be where He is [**Jn 14: 1-4**]. Therefore, we have no reason to be anxious for anything.

God does not use a time-clock.