



Cape Neddick Tide

*What's Coming and Going at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Family of Faith,

We began the year considering our fascination with and fixation on Time. We try to make time, spend time and cheat time but time marches on. Enter the word "time" in your online search engine and you might, as I did, come upon a 128-word definition. But, in all the many words offered in that statement of meaning, I could find no real definition of time for there was no attempt to define time outside of time—time as a created sphere within which God's plan of redemption is actualized. Time from an eternal perspective. Time from God's point of view.

But should we be surprised by the failure in definition? Does any human being really know what time is in this sense? As the rock group Chicago asked all the way back in 1970, does

anybody really know what time it is? Now we're about to launch into a new year, a new year of promise and challenge. What will we make of this year? How will we use the time we've been given?

Time comes to us in seasons, in spans, in stretches, in seconds and in spells. Time comes to us in moments, months and millennia. We may be at a juncture, in an interval and everything can change in an instant. To live ably within this reality, to have the wherewithal to embrace and even welcome the sundry seasons of our lives, we would do well, we would be wise, to consider time from God's perspective.

The author of Ecclesiastes offers us a majestic ode to time, a diatribe against time, and a revelation about time that is instructive for us today. He tells us that every human

activity has its own appointed time but that time also creates a problem. If human beings were merely creatures of time, they would not concern themselves with the further dimensions of eternity. But God has placed "eternity in our hearts," while keeping us from the full knowledge of what will be in the future. We are made for eternity but limited just now to time; that is our predicament.

Solomon, who is believed to be the author of Ecclesiastes, opens the book with the words "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" He claims to have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them, he declares, are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Our laboring and love for money are meaningless. Pleasures are meaningless. Advancement is meaningless. Riches are

meaningless. The satisfaction of our appetites. Meaningless. Much dreaming and many words. Meaningless. Meaningless. Thirty-six times over six chapters in Ecclesiastes, Solomon proclaims something and everything, “meaningless!”

And this man had done everything, seen everything. He’d studied. He’d acquired. He’d amassed. He’d led. He’d built. He’d planted. He’d denied himself nothing. But, all of it, all his activity, had left him empty. All of it, was to Solomon, meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Art historian and author Bernard Barrenson once said, “I wish I could stand on a busy street corner, hat in hand, and beg people to throw me all of their wasted hours.” But even if he could steal or borrow hours, Solomon laments, it would make no difference because his fate would still be the same. The fate of the fool will overtake the wise as well. Like the fool, the wise man too must die. If there is no purpose, no meaning to existence beyond the limited span of an individual’s years, all the effort is for naught, he concludes. And so, he despairs: what is the point of it all? Why bother?

Finally, he hits upon it. Finally, dawn breaks. At last, he gets it. Only a right relationship with God fills the days with meaning. Only those activities undertaken for the sake of God and to honor God have any meaning under the sun. Seek the Lord’s will for your life, do

whatever work to which you’ve been called as unto the Lord, honor Him with your priorities, honor Him with your conduct, and He will make all things beautiful in His time.

Each one is born. Each one will die. In between, God has ordained that certain things will happen according to His plan. There will be times of planting and harvest, times of destruction and times of healing. There will be times of sorrow, times of joy, times of searching, times of moving ahead, times of yielding. There will be times for keeping and times for throwing away, times for silence, times for speaking up. There will be love and hate, war and peace. There will be suffering.

We fear suffering, sorrow and privation, but God allows these to enter our lives to build in us an iron tenacity and strength of purpose, the indispensable foundation and framework of a noble character. God wants iron saints; and since there is no way of imparting iron to the moral nature but by letting people suffer, He lets them suffer.

If we begin to look at our lives from an eternal perspective, we will be able to take heart in all that comes to us in life—the times of trial, the times of building, the times of joy, the times of ease. For we will be able to have peace in all circumstances because we know the Lord is in control. He is working in time, outside of time, and at all times. And He does indeed make all things beautiful in His time. And, in

time, we learn to fear God, to obey Him, to seek Him, to seek our purpose in serving Him, and to invest in that which the scriptures assure us will endure.

First Corinthians 13 says faith, hope and love endure. John, chapter 6, assures us that spiritual food, which the Son of Man—Jesus Christ—gives us, endures. First Corinthians 15 assures us that all our labor done for the sake of the Lord endures. Matthew, chapter 6, assures us that treasures, laid up in heaven, endure. And where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. We too will endure.

When our lives on this earthly plain come to an end, what stories will they tell? Will we have to say, when we survey all our hands have done and what we have toiled to achieve, that everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind” (Ecclesiastes 2: 11a)? Or will our lives reflect God-honoring priorities? Will we be able to say that we have fought the good fight, we have finished the race, we have kept the faith? Now there is in store for us the crown of righteousness” (2Timothy 4-7a)?

In the days ahead, may we all find ourselves engaged in those pursuits that honor God and minister to our fellow human beings. May the Lord “teach us to number our days aright” (Psalm 90:12) and remind us that each day is “the day the Lord has made” (Psalm 118:24a). Our times are in His hands (Psalm 31:15) and we

can “trust in Him at all times. . . for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8). God is the God of our days and God is the God of all time whether we are in time or out of time. There is no time like the present and one of the greatest presents we can give is time. Give your time to God and He will redeem your time.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Donna



Snow Pal Ministry

On January 13th names will be drawn during worship. For the four weeks that follow, until February 10th, you will have the opportunity to minister secretly to someone else within our church family. There are many ways to do so. Some possibilities include: a card, an encouraging note, a Bible verse, a small remembrance, or even a plate or box of goodies. Items for your snow pal can be mailed (don't use a return address!) or left in the sanctuary. During the February 10th Valentine's Luncheon each secret snow pal will reveal himself/herself by giving their snow pal a signed Valentine's card.



**Annual
Business**

Meeting

The Cape Neddick Baptist Church Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th after the worship service. A brunch will be served before the meeting. Your typed reports are due on Friday, January 18th.



Coffee Fellowship

Weekly Coffee Fellowship

We will begin having a regular **Coffee and Fellowship Time** after worship in the vestry every Sunday. Please plan to stay after the worship service to greet one another and share in the joy of being part of this church family.



Have
extra
Bibles

or books that you've read and want to pass along for others to read? Love Packages provides a way for God's Word and Christian literature to reach the hands of millions across the world. We will be mailing books and magazines to Love Packages the last week of January. Bring your books and magazines in so that they may be included. Questions, speak with Dianne, Sheri or Sue.

Faith Crafting

“SNOW MUCH FUN”

Faith Crafting Time **THURSDAY**
JAN 31st 1p-3pm

Looking ahead at wintertime weather can be discouraging But we can plan a fun event together to create something to cheer us up. PLEASE look through your photos and pick out one (or 2) which makes you smile!

I will help you create a colorful fun 12x12 page with this photo which you can Place in 12 x 12 frame and display on your wall or bookcase to enjoy for the rest of the winter. If you haven't attended a Faithcrafting time, please consider joining us.....

ALL ARE WELCOMED, but I would LOVE you to let me know if you are coming so I can plan my supplies.

Crystal cbutler2@maine.rr.com
cell 207-752-1994



Birthday and Anniversary

Make a resolution to share joy with others by sending them a card on their birthday or anniversary! These sheets are on the back table. If there is anyone interested in having their name added to the sheets, please call. Betty Lovering. [207 363 8009](tel:2073638009)