

It's About Time

It's the end of another year – often a time to look back before moving forward. I do that every December, reviewing family events in preparation for writing our traditional Christmas letter: births, deaths, marriages, travels, etc. What usually strikes me more than anything else, though, is how quickly those 12 months have flown by, each year seemingly faster than the one before it! And yet remember when you were a kid and it took forever for Christmas or your birthday to come? The difference is our frame of reference. When you were six, a year was one sixth of your total life experience; now it might be only one sixtieth. So what about God? His frame of reference is infinitely beyond our own, as must be His concept of time.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3: 8-9)

I immediately thought of the underlined sentence for this post, but I'd forgotten the context. The "promise" Peter is speaking of here is the coming judgement. Yes, among all the other things God has promised, He promised that the world would not carry on forever in its fallen condition. People will not be allowed to scoff at God and commit atrocities against one another in perpetuity. In God's own timing, He *will* put an end to it. How do we know? Because God always keeps His promises. The only question is when.

Everything stands ready, which means it could happen tomorrow. So we are living on borrowed time. We have come through another year only by God's patience and grace, not because He is slow or indecisive but because He loves all people and wants *everyone to come to repentance* before the end. He desires that we would all be saved by the means He Himself has provided. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16)

So as you look back over the past year, what do you see? Important events, both happy and sad? Perhaps accomplishments as well as failures. Have you made some positive changes? For some, 2023 will always stand out, celebrated as the year they made the most important decision of their lives: accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I hope and pray that 2024 will be that year for many, many more. Don't delay; time may be running out.

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