

The Moment Called Now

By Bill Irby

“THE MOMENT CALLED NOW”

I am sure that you've had someone ask you right out of the blue, “Hey, what time do you have?” This question generally comes from a person who does not carry or wear a timepiece of any sort. I, being totally nuts about knowing what time it is, all the time, cannot imagine such a thing. Nonetheless, when asked such a question, we simply respond by telling the clueless one the time of day.

Another “time trick” employed by folks (some friends of mine) is to set their watch or clock ahead five or ten minutes so that they will not be late for their appointments. I have never understood this gambit. Don't they know, don't they remember, that they have set their clocks forward? I have asked folks about this practice and have been told that they did it because... “it gives us a little extra time.” No, it doesn't and I just don't get it.

But you know, old impatient me and everybody else like me (I am not alone) needs to understand that ultimately it does not really matter. And you must know that it really pains me to write that, because I want it to matter so much. The reason it doesn't matter is that all the time any of us have is the moment known as now.

Here it is from an authoritative source: “Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or do that” (James 4:13-15). What time does a businessman like the one depicted here by James really have? He has only the moment called now.

Do you remember the rich fool of Luke 12? He thought within himself. He figured he had plenty of time. He had some barns, but tore them down...figured

he had time to build new and bigger ones. He was so sure of the time he had he said to himself, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." In the parable he dies that very night. What then became of all his things?

Jesus said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). One day is sometimes too much to live at once, but it is always enough. We just can't handle any more.

As I said, I am something of a fanatic about things that relate to time. I like to know what time it is and I sure always want to be on time. But I also need to understand that none of us are promised one moment more than we have now...right now.

So, what shall we make of all of this? Is there an application of this little lesson? Yes, and more than one.

Since we only have the moment called now, if there is sin in your life, repent of it now.

Since we only have the moment called now, if you need to obey the gospel, obey it now.

Since we only have the moment called now, if you have been meaning to help someone, help that person now.

Since we only have the moment called now, if you love someone that hasn't heard about it from you lately, tell that person now.

If now is not the time... then when?