

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

Published weekly by a group of God's people in the Monrovia community and meeting at:
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<http://spreadingtruth.org>

putting off until tomorrow what really needs to be done today. Two people have a sharp disagreement and for selfish reasons, each one is unwilling to work toward a restored relationship. The assumption may be that there will be plenty of time later to "make up." It is a sad thing when "time runs out" for one or both and there was no reconciliation. Spouses need to think about this and resolve differences in a timely fashion (pun intended!). The opportunity to talk with some specific individual about the gospel of Jesus Christ may only be available today and not tomorrow.

We can permit the inconsequential and trivial to crowd out the truly important. Unfortunately, many people give little

thought to evaluating the relative value of the activities that fill their days. Paul wrote, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16; ESV). If we are not ordering our days to fulfill our God-given purpose to glorify God here on earth, we are not "making the best use of [our] time."

The clock is ticking and it won't stop or slow down for us...until the Lord returns. What are you doing with your minutes?

*The lyrics of "Clock Don't Stop" were written by Chris Destefano, Hillary Lindsey and Blair Daly. Copyrighted by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. and BMG Rights Management US, LLC.

Bible Challenge Question - Answer

The short answer is that Solomon was the son of king David and his wife Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24-25). Bathsheba had been the wife of Uriah the Hittite, but David arranged for the death of Uriah to cover his adultery with Bathsheba and then took her as his wife. The Lord had already promised David that he would have a son whom he would name Solomon (on the occasion that David wanted to build a temple for the Lord; 1 Chronicles 22:6-10). It is interesting that this promised son was the child of Bathsheba. In his genealogy of Jesus, Matthew wrote, "David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah" (1:6), not mentioning Bathsheba by name, but calling to memory the terrible sins of David in the matter.

Commenting on the meaning of the name Solomon, Carr wrote, "The general meaning behind the root *š-l-m* is of completion and fulfillment—of entering into a state of wholeness and unity, a restored relationship" (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, p 930). Solomon's name was perhaps a reminder to David that the Lord had forgiven him of his sin and his relationship with the Lord was restored. See 1 Chronicles 22:9-10 for another possible meaning of the name. It is quite possible that both applications of the name's meaning were intended.



Volume 10, Number 6

February 5, 2017

The Clock Doesn't Stop

By Allen Dvorak

Carrie Underwood is perhaps best known by many as the winner of the 2005 *American Idol* show. Since then, she has become an extremely successful country music singer. All of her albums have won accolades and she has sold tens of millions of copies of her recorded songs.

On her fifth album, *Storyteller*, is a song entitled "Clock Don't Stop." The lyrics are more cryptic than some of the other songs on the album, but like them it tells the brief story of a couple who get into an argument and then finally make up (if I have understood the song correctly!). Here are selected parts of the lyrics:*

Red dress, spilled wine
Caught in a stupid fight
He's wrong, she's right
(No kiss goodnight)
Ring ring, telephone
Act like I'm not home
Can't hear the tears cry
(On the other end of the line)

And the minutes turn to hours
And they're flying like a jet plane
And we'll make it right tomorrow
But tomorrow's not a sure thing

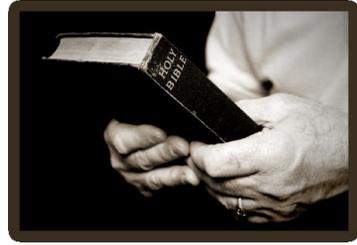
The clock don't stop ticking away
Away
Always hanging on the wall
No, it don't care at all
It won't slow down; it won't wait
The clock don't stop ticking away
It's ticking away

Red dress, spilled wine
Caught in a stupid fight
I'm wrong, you're right
Kiss me goodnight

The point of the song is that time marches on, i.e., the clock doesn't stop ticking and opportunities can be lost. The minutes turn to hours, flying past as rapidly as a jet plane. The arguing couple put off the resolution of their tiff until tomorrow, but "tomorrow's not

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

By Caleb Westbrook



Examples of godly people who struggled with doubt:

1. _____ (_____)
2. _____ (_____)
3. _____ (_____)
4. _____ (_____)

Understanding doubt can be compared to looking to what type of picture? _____

God does not give us _____, but He does give us _____ (reference: Deuteronomy _____)

We can have confidence that through the Word God has given us everything that pertains to _____ (1 Peter 1:3)

Faith is a decision that demonstrates _____ & _____

“_____ in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on _____. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise _____; Fear the Lord and _____.”(Proverbs 3:_____) NASB

God does not expect us to never have _____, but He does expect us to _____

“Time is a created thing. To say, ‘I don’t have time,’ is like saying, ‘I don’t want to.’”

-- Lao Tzu

“You may delay, but time will not.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

a sure thing.”

Someone once said that time is the stuff life is made of. I suspect that it is more accurate to say that nearly everything in life is measured in terms of time. Days, months and years become the markers for events in our lives,



giving us a sense of chronological order for those events.

The song’s lyrics are correct. Time doesn’t slow down; it doesn’t wait for us, even when we might want a particular moment to last much longer.

Bible Challenge Question

Who were the parents of king Solomon?

The answer to this question is on the back page.

James affirmed the truth that “time flies” for each of us when he wrote that we (our lives) are “a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (4:14). He indicated that it is arrogant to think that we have control over the future or even that our future is assured (4:14-16). At the same time that we don’t need to be anxious about the passage of time (see Philippians 4:6-7), it is of great benefit to remember that our time here on earth is limited. Jesus made this point, on the occasion of His healing of the man blind from birth. He told His disciples, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4; ESV). Like Jesus, we need to recognize that the time we have to “work” is limited. Anything that is both necessary and in limited supply becomes valuable.

A couple of observations need to be made. First, since we can only “spend time” once, we need to make good use of our time. We cannot go back in time and use our moments in some different way (contrary to the *Back To The Future* movie series!). Once a moment has passed, it can never be regained. If we have occupied ourselves with activities of little or no value, there is no “fixing” that later. That suggests we should consider carefully what activities we allow to fill our days.

Second, the fact that “tomorrow is not a sure thing” means that there is danger in