

WHAT TIME IS IT?

(Romans 13:11-14)

Intro: What time is it?

In response to that question.

-We might tend to look at:

#Watch.

#Clock.

#Cell phone.

#Computer screen.

*All of which can tell us the time of day.

-We might look at:

#Color of the paraments.

#Beautiful liturgical banner.

*To determine where we are in the church's calendar.

-But how might we answer that question without:

#Time piece.

#Calendar.

#Liturgical banner.

You know what time it is.

-St. Paul tells:

#Romans.

#Us.

*Romans 13:11.

I. What Time Is It?

A. In Greek There Are Two Different Words For Time.

1. Chronos (χρόνος).

a. We get the English word "chronology" from it.

-Clock time.

-Mark-the-days-off-the-calendar time.

b. Right now it is:

-Sunday.

-November 28, 2010.

-_____ A.M. (Central Standard Time).

#In chronological time.

c. It's the First Sunday of Advent.

-In the chronology of the liturgical calendar.

2. Kairos (καιρός).
 - a. Isn't measured by clocks and calendars.
 - b. It's:
 - Critical moment.
 - Decisive moment.
 - Favorable time.
 - Opportune time.
 - God's time.
 - c. This is the word that St. Paul uses in Romans 13:11.

B. What Time Is It?

1. In God's time.
2. In this decisive moment.
3. In your spiritual journey.
4. In the life of this congregation.
5. In this kairotic moment.

II. What Time Is It?

A. It's Time To Wake Up.

1. It's morning.
 - a. The night is far gone.
 - b. The day is near.
2. It's dawn.
 - a. Dawn of a new day.
 - b. Dawn of a new age.
 - #God's day.
 - #God's rule.
 - #God's reign.
3. It's time to wake up.
 - a. To get out of your pj's.
 - b. To get dressed.
 - God doesn't call us to a slumber party.
 - God calls us:
 - #To live.
 - #To love.
 - #To work.
 - *In the light.
4. It's time to take off our night clothes.
 - a. Carousing.
 - b. Drunkenness.
 - c. Bickering.
 - d. Jealousy.

- e. All those things that are hurtful.
 - To ourselves.
 - To others.
 - #When we:
 - *Don't know what time it is.
 - *Don't care what time it is.
5. It's time to put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- a. This is the language of:
 - Baptism.
 - New beginnings.
 - New life.
 - b. It's time to live:
 - Honorably.
 - Faithfully.
 - c. It is time to wake up to the fact:
 - Our time is not our own.

B. It Is A Time Of Salvation.

- 1. God makes time for us, literally.
 - a. As I read the first creation story in Genesis 1.
 - One of the things that God creates is time.
 - #Evening and morning.
 - *Day 1.
 - #Evening and morning.
 - *Day 2.
 - #Evening and morning.
 - *Day 3.
 - God creates:
 - #Sun to rule over the day.
 - #Moon to rule over the night.
 - God creates:
 - #Days.
 - #Weeks.
 - #Months.
 - #Seasons.
 - God creates time for us.
 - #God doesn't need time.
 - #What is time to one who is timeless?
 - *Who has no beginning.
 - *Who has no end.

- b. God made time for us.
 - So we might know:
 - #When it's time:
 - *To get up.
 - +To go to bed.
 - *To go to work or school.
 - +To go home.
 - *To start worship.
 - +To harvest the crops.
 - When I was on vacation.
 - #I saw sugar cane being harvested.
 - *In Louisiana.
 - #I saw:
 - *Peanut wagons.
 - *Cotton bales.
 - +In Georgia.
 - #It's time:
 - *For the harvest.
 - *For thanksgiving for the harvest.
 - #It's time God made for us.
2. God made time for us in another way.
 - a. We humans messed up God's time.
 - In the time of Adam and Eve.
 - In the time of Noah.
 - In the time of Isaiah.
 - In our own time.
 - #Wasting time.
 - #Abusing time.
 - #Taking time for granted.
 - #Thinking time was our own.
 - *To do with it as we pleased.
 - b. God made time for us.
 - Redeeming the time.
 - #At the intersection of:
 - *Chronos.
 - *Kairos.
 - #At the intersection of:
 - *Cross.
 - In the fullness of time.
 - #At the critical moment.
 - #At the decisive moment.

- *In God's time.
 - +God sent forth his Son,
 - Born of a woman,
 - Born under the law,
 - To redeem those who were under the law,
 - So that we might receive adoption as children.
 - =Galatians 4:4.
- c. God made time for us.
 - God showed up in time.
 - #So that a new day might dawn.
 - *For Jesus.
 - *For us.
 - #So that night:
 - *Darkness.
 - *Sin.
 - #Might give way to the light.
 - *Resurrection.
 - *Forgiveness.
- 3. God made time for us so that we might make time for God.
 - a. One of the many inserts in your bulletin.
 - Time and Talent Survey.
 - #Look it over.
 - #Fill it out.
 - #Return it by December 12.
 - This is as important as the Statement of Intent Card.
 - #God has made time for you.
 - #God has redeemed time for you.
 - *So as you fill these out.
 - +You might ask yourselves:
 - =What time is it?
 - =Whose time is it?
 - b. Our time is God's time.
 - Not just what we do around the church.
 - #For worship.
 - #For the property.
 - #For all of the other areas of service.
 - But what we do 24/7.
 - #On Saturday night.
 - #On Monday morning.
 - *In school.
 - *At work.
 - *In retirement.

- When I was on vacation.
 - #I looked up a former colleague.
 - *Simon was one of a very few:
 - +African-American Lutheran chaplains.
 - *In 2001 he retired to Pensacola, Florida.
 - #We got to talking about retirement.
 - *His.
 - *Not mine.
 - #I reminded him:
 - *What Walter Cronkite had to say about retirement.
 - +“Retirement is waking up with absolutely nothing to do,”
 - +“And by lunch time you’re way behind.”
- Our time is God’s time.
 - #All of it.
- c. We might think that we don’t have enough time.
 - When we are more attuned to the world’s chronos.
 - #With it’s:
 - *Schedules.
 - *Deadlines.
 - #Rather than God’s kairotic moments.
 - *We need to ask ourselves:
 - +“What time is it?”
 - *We should be programmed to answer:
 - +“It’s time to wake up.”
 - =God’s time.
 - Those of us who are middle age or beyond.
 - #Realize that there are more days behind us.
 - *Than ahead of us.
 - +Especially in view of the fact.
 - =Few of us will live to be 100 years old.
 - As Dorothy Steeples did.
 - #At least that’s true in chronological time.
 - But in God’s time.
 - #Those of us who live in God’s kairos.
 - *On this side of Easter.
 - *On this side of resurrection.
 - #Know that there are more days ahead of us than behind us.
 - *Last verse of *Amazing Grace* captures this idea:
 - +When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
 - Bright shining as the sun,
 - We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
 - Than when we’d first begun.
 - *It’s been a while since I’ve had a math class.
 - + $\infty - 10,000 = \infty$.

Concl: What time is it?

-On this First Sunday of Advent

-You know what time it is.

#It's time to wake up.

#It's time to wake up to God's time.