

Time #7: A Critical Test of Time Management –
What Do I Do When God Is Late?
Romans 13:1-14

Introduction:

- A. Two definitions that are important:
 - 1. GST: God's Sovereign Time.
 - 2. HST: Human Standard Time.
- B. We have really been talking about:
 - 1. Who is in charge of the universe?
 - 2. Do I feel a need to share or take over that position?
 - 3. What do I do when God and others do not recognize and respect my position as ruler of the world?
- C. Being on time is a challenge.
 - 1. I was talking with J. Scates the other day and he related something to me that we can all relate to, I think. J. says he was sitting in the waiting room at the Doctor's office when the receptionist came out and spoke to a man who had been sitting there for a long while. She said, "Sir, I'm so sorry, but we seem to have overlooked you. How long have you been sitting here?"
"Mam," he said, "I was born here and I'm just waiting for them to discharge Mamma." (Ken Joines.)
 - 2. At the busy dental office where I work, one patient was always late. Once when I called to confirm an appointment, he said, "I'll be about 15 minutes late. That won't be a problem, will it?"
"No," I told him. "We just won't have time to give you an anesthetic."
He arrived early (*Reader's Digest*, June, 1992, page 145).

I. ACCORDING TO HST, GOD IS OFTEN LATE.

- A. In blessing me, therefore I worry. Matthew 6:34; Philippians 4:6,7
- B. In providing wants, needs, or desires, therefore I overwork. Exodus 34:21
- C. In answering prayer, therefore I lose faith. Luke 18:1; James 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 10:13
- D. In taking vengeance, therefore I play God. Romans 12:17-21
 - 1. God can make things right God's way. Romans 13:1-6
 - 2. I need to keep God's covenant and let Him bring the results that glorify Him. Romans 13:7

II. DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS (IN THE BIBLE AND THOSE MADE AND ENFORCED BY HIS MINISTERS, CIVIL GOVERNMENT) IS OFTEN A TIME ISSUE.

- A. I may speed because I think (HST) I need to get somewhere faster than God does.
 - 1. A preacher told a friend to drive his automobile 70 mph in a 55 mph zone because a state trooper had told him that they didn't start giving tickets until 71 mph.
 - 2. Would it be OK to drive 80 or 90 or with a good fuzzbuster?
 - 3. If that, or some other speed would be too fast, who should determine the correct speed?
 - 4. Would it be acceptable for my children or grandchildren to cheat on a test if they don't get caught?
 - 5. Is the principle *Don't get caught* rather than: Romans 13:1,5?

6. I wonder why God doesn't know I need to go faster than the law.
 7. Is it also acceptable to run stop signs, red lights, and go the wrong way down one-way streets to save time – if I don't get caught?
- B. I may cheat on my taxes because I think that God cannot provide my material needs with taxes as high as they are and God doesn't understand politics. Romans 13:6, 7; Daniel 2:20,21
 - C. I may commit adultery because God hasn't given me a mate or brought peace in my marriage as fast as I think He should. Romans 13:9
 - D. I may murder someone because God hasn't provided what I want as quickly as I think He should.
 1. God hasn't brought justice as soon as He should.
 2. Therefore, I will help him. Romans 13:9; 1 John 3:15
 - E. I may steal because God is late in His provisions. Romans 13:9
 - F. I may lie about someone because God hasn't provided what I want as quickly as I think He should; God hasn't brought justice as soon as He should. Romans 13:9
 - G. I may covet because I am convinced that God is not fair in His time management – He has blessed my neighbor more quickly than me and it isn't fair. Romans 13:9

III. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE THAT GST IS BETTER THAN HST (MINE).

- A. If that is true, my task is to keep my covenant with God, according to His will, and trust GST. Romans 13:8-10
- B. Part of my faith in God is believing that He knows best, has taught me the right way, and will bring His will in His time. 1 John 5:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:12
- C. Being able to tell time (GST) makes a difference in priorities, lifestyle, morals. Romans 13:11-14

Conclusion:

- A. One of my favorite stories was told to me some years back by a university professor. While he and his wife were visiting a city in India, he had noticed a Hindu who did nothing but sit by the river. Every time he looked the man would be sitting there. One day the professor's curiosity got the better of him and, ostensibly taking a walk, he spoke to the Hindu. To his surprise the man answered in excellent English. When asked why he seemed to spend all of his time in such a manner, the Hindu replied that he believed in reincarnation. According to his belief we have all lived many times before and will live many times again. And then he said, "This life I'm sitting out" (*This Is Earl Nightingale*, Earl Nightingale, page 232).
- B. God is always on time.
- C. God will supply all our needs. Philippians 4:19
- D. Do you need to put on the Lord Jesus Christ? Galatians 3:27
- E. Now is the time. 2 Corinthians 6:1,2