TIME: A GOD GIVEN OPPORTUNITY
A New Year's Challenge

Why so much excitement and enthusiasm and celebration over a new year?

After all, it's just another day, of another week, of another month, of another year of another decade, of another century of another millennium?

Why be time conscious at all?

Have you ever observed all of the time-related activities/celebrations we partake in?
Examples: Birthdates; Anniversaries; Memorials; Holidays;

It is important to be time-conscious. That is why we have watches; calendars (day-timers); live by schedules; do certain things at certain times of the day;

Certainly, one reason, mankind is so celebratory over the matter of time is simply this: To have the satisfaction of saying within ourselves "I made It!" "I have experienced another year" "I am still alive!" "The Death Reaper didn't get me yet!"

But should there be more to the extention of time than to merely have the satisfaction of saying "I made It another year"? Shouldn't there be a grander purpose to the time we are alloted?

In a one word answer, why does God give us time?

Answer: OPPORTUNITY

God gives us time to give us OPPORTUNITY

Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The Bible has a lot to say about time. The word "time" occurs 563 times from Genesis to Revelation. (In the KJV)

Time therefore is important to us, since we live in the realm of time and do so for a very brief time.

1. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: Salvation

2Pe 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation;
2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

2. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: Wisdom

Ps 90:12 ¶ So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
Re 1:3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

3. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: A Testimony

Col 4:5 ¶ Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

4. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: Prayer

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

5. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: Service

Philippians 1:21-25: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

6. ***God gives us TIME to give us***
the opportunity for: God's Will

1Peter 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Conclusion:

We need to make resolutions regarding the above mentioned reasons as to why God gives us time.

Note the resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

Note the resolutions written By A Young African Pastor and Tacked on The Wall of His House

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed.
I have Holy Spirit Power.
The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His.
I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense,
my future is secure.
I'm finished and done with my low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living,
and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience,
lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, by gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companion few, my Guide reliable,
my mission clear.
I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity,
or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up,
stored up, prayed up,
paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.
I am a disciple of Jesus.
I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own,
He will have no problem recognizing me
– my banner will be clear.

Psalm 90:12

This psalm, written through Moses who lived to be 120 years old, unveils a theme that Moses saw vividly portrayed before his eyes, as 1.2 million of his people perished in a brief 40 years: namely, the brevity of life.

Psalm 90 is the oldest of all Psalms. Interestingly enough, the age of this psalm corresponds to the theme of it - namely, the shortness of life on earth.

Every day 130,000 people die somewhere in the world. Every hour 5,417 people go to meet their Maker.

That's 90 per minute. That's nearly 2 people every second.

The clock of time is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour..
Now is the only time you own;
So live, love, toil doing God's will,
Place no faith in tomorrow,
For the clock may then be still.

V. 12

"So" - in light of what was previously said (v. 1-11)
"Teach us" - only God can place within man an accurate value of each minute of time.
"To number" - to truly consider that life's days are few.

God likens the swiftness of our lives unto:
1)A weaver's shuttle (Job 7:6)
2)A breath of air (Job 7:6)
3)A runner (Job 9:25)
4)Swift ships (Job 9:26)
5)A flower (Job 14:1)
6)A shadow (Job 14:2)
7)As evaporating water (Job 14:11-12)
8)A shepherd's tent (Is. 38:12)
9)A vapor (Ja. 4:14)

The reason given for numbering our days is not so that we can miserably lament the brevity of life, but so that we will both learn and experience the art of skillful living.

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