



## Pastor's Page

### **A Timely Reminder**

Welcome to British Summertime – Yes in case you hadn't noticed last night at 1.00am we moved the clocks forward an hour. I love it because it means that from now until late September I can play out after my evening meal!! But not everyone loves it, my mum's not keen as she doesn't like losing an hour's sleep! (Not sure why she doesn't just go to bed earlier!) Still, whatever our attitude is to this seasonal adjustment it reminds us all that time is marching on.

Someone shared with me last week the fact that they'd spent days working on a little puzzle that someone had challenged them with last Sunday. As this lady unveiled the fruits of her efforts (pages of words that she had compiled) one of the group said "Well I suppose it's one way of passing the time." Now I'm sure that this was just an 'off the cuff' comment said without much thought but it's a phrase that I have always disliked. The idea that 'time' is something just to fritter away with amusing distractions' and that life is something to endure rather than embrace depresses me! Surely we should consider how we might best use the time that we have been given rather than find things to just make it pass by quickly.

As a wise person once said "you can measure the calibre of a man by the amount of time he has for other people." Everyone receives an equal supply of time. The only difference between us is in the way we spend it. Each week brings us 168 precious hours. It has been estimated that on average we spend 56 hours sleeping and recuperating (unless you have small children!) 28 hours eating and doing personal duties, between 40 and 50 hours earning a living, leaving us with approximately 30-40 hours to spend however we wish (unless you have small children!!) So how do we spend them? How many hours for recreation? How many hours strictly for family? How many hours for the regular worship of God? How many hours in Christian service? As another wise person said "Perhaps we may be very busy with good things yet too busy for the best things. The great question is; have we made wise use of our time as stewards of Christ?"

To respond to this question we need to consider what Jesus himself would have us do. I believe that he has answered this himself in the form of a reply that he gave on one occasion when he was asked which was the most important commandment. His reply was; Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is this: love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Jesus wants us to spend time loving God and loving people. How much time do we have for our neighbours? How much time do we have for God? And loving God and loving our neighbours is what should motivate us to fulfil the commission that Jesus gave us; "Go, and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt 28:19-20)

Wow, sounds pretty time consuming to me, I may not have time to play out after all!

29<sup>th</sup> March 2009