

Life Group Notes 2/25/2024
Charlie Temple Our Time is not God's Time

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Charlie Temple has raised this week, 2/25. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include in full each of the passages mentioned to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes.

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Charlie began by contradicting Mick Jagger's and the Rolling Stones' claim that "Time is on Our Side." He said, "Time is not on our side, but God's time IS on our side." What did that make you think?

When Charlie prayed, he put scripture to his prayer. Look up 2 Peter 3: *Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.](#)*

1. What do you see?
2. When Charlie prays according to this promise, what happens?
3. Put time in God's perspective.
4. What happens when one comes to repentance?
5. What happens when time runs out?
6. If you have unrepentant loved ones, how much hope does this promise bring?
7. Are you patient?
8. Take a moment to pray for them and for each other according to this promise.
9. Do you have a testimony?

Charlie opens with a premise: "Time is a construct. Everyone is constrained by time. We are bound by time. We obsess over time. 'Your deadline is March 1...your deadline is April 20.'"

1. What is a "deadline?"
2. What do we call it a "DEAD" line? What happens if you don't meet it?
3. Why is our time wrapped up in deadlines?

4. What do you think of when you think of April 15?
5. Look at Hebrews 9: [27](#) *Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment,* [28](#) *so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him.* Did Jesus have a deadline?
6. How did He ensure that he'd meet His deadline?
7. How short is life?
8. Look at James 4: [13](#) *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit."* [14](#) *You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.* [15](#) *Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that."* [16](#) *As it is, you boast in your proud intentions. All such boasting is evil.* [17](#) *Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do, yet fails to do it, is guilty of sin.* Have you ever looked at your life in this way?
9. Have you ever boasted about your intentions and plans in this way? How did that work for you? Do you have a testimony?
10. Have you ever had a friend disappear suddenly? What did that do to you?
11. Review Matthew 6: [27](#) *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?* [28](#) *And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin.* [29](#) *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these.* [30](#) *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Which matters more? The grass of the field or you? Why? What does this short life prepare you for?*

Now look again at what Charlie prayed above, 2 Peter 3: [8](#) *Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.* [9](#) *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.*

1. Where did Peter get this idea? (Whom is Peter quoting in verse 8?)
2. Look up Psalm 94: [3](#) *You return man to dust, saying, "Return, O sons of mortals."* [4](#) *For in Your sight a thousand years are but a day that passes, or a watch of the night.* [5](#) *You whisk them away in their sleep; they are like the new grass of the morning—*[6](#) *in the morning it springs up new, but by evening it fades and withers.* How do these words change perspective?
3. Talk about God's time. What matters most to Him?
4. Why do we matter most? What is His prize possession, when it is freely given to Him? (Why is our faith more precious to Him than gold?)
5. Talk about His timing. How patient is He? Why? (Who is His prize possession?)
6. Is God constrained by time?
7. How do you feel when you are late?
8. Can God be late? Look at Mark 13: [31](#) *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.* [32](#) *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* [33](#) *Be on your guard and stay alert! For you do*

not know when the appointed time will come. Why do you think Jesus was not given times and seasons when He was with us?

9. How awake and alert was Jesus? What did He know?
10. Given this perspective, how important is it to know His Word like Peter clearly did?
11. Now look at verse 9 again. What promise is Peter talking about? (Look at these verses: [3](#)Most importantly, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. [4](#)“Where is the promise of His coming?” they will ask. “Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.”) Do you think Peter had been impatiently waiting? When did he think Jesus would return and all would end?
12. Charlie says God waited for him for 35 years. How long did God have to wait for you?
13. Are there people in your circle for whom God is still waiting? Take a moment to pray for them.

Go further back in 1 Peter 3 and review: [3](#)Most importantly, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. [4](#)“Where is the promise of His coming?” they will ask. “Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.” [5](#)But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed, and the earth was formed out of water and by water, [6](#)through which the world of that time perished in the flood. [7](#)And by that same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

1. Have you seen scoffers?
2. What are they saying? Where is this being said?
3. What is your reaction to scoffers?
4. Describe the lifestyle of these scoffers. Is it enviable?
5. Charlie says God is waiting. “He is waiting with a purpose. He is waiting with an objective.” What does verse 9 say His purpose and objective are?

Now look at the next verse. [10](#)But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare.

1. What happens after the deadline?
2. How sure is the end?
3. How imminent? (How close at hand is it?) Do you know how much time you have?
4. How grateful are you for God’s patience? Have you been known to tax His patience?
5. What does it look like when your works are laid bare?

Look up 1 Timothy 1: [15](#)*This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst. [16](#)But for this very reason I was shown mercy, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His perfect patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life. [17](#)Now to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

1. Looking at Paul, what kind of fruit did God’s patience bear through him?
2. How grateful are you that God was patient with Paul?

3. How is Paul himself the very proof of his claim? How radically saved was he?
4. What did God's patience save Paul from on the road to Damascus? What was he headed off to do? For whom did God save Paul that day? What has his example meant to you?
5. Do you know for whom you've been saved? For whom are you serving as an example?

Look up Luke 15: [1](#) Now all the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around to listen to Jesus. [2](#) So the Pharisees and scribes began to grumble: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." [3](#) Then Jesus told them this parable: [4](#) "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? [5](#) And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, [6](#) comes home, and calls together his friends and neighbors to tell them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep!' [7](#) In the same way, I tell you that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous ones who do not need to repent.

1. What do you see?
2. With whom is Jesus hanging out? With whom is He not hanging out?
3. Who are the good guys in this situation?
4. Why does religion grumble?
5. What time was invested in finding you?
6. Explain verse 7. How does this verse make you feel?
7. Describe the joy of victory.
8. What does victory mean in heaven? Who wins what?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Pray for one specifically by name whom you know must come to Christ.

Take the time to pray.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 2 Peter 3:8-9
Tuesday: Hebrews 9:27-28
Wednesday: James 4:13-17
Thursday: Mark 13:31-33
Friday: Matthew 6:27-30
Saturday: Psalm 94:8-14
Sunday: 2 Peter 3:11-14