

Date: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Theme: The Right Time of God is worth the wait / Text: Romans 5:1-11

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who has brought us together”. Amen

The Word of God through which the Holy Spirit guides our hearts and minds today is recorded in the reading of **Romans 5:1-11** which was read before. Let us pray:

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Amen

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My friends in Christ; we all know that in life not all things take place at the right time. No doubt you have been in a situation where you want to have something that is on sale, but your budget does not allow it to buy it. Then when you have the money you go in a hurry to the place where that “thing” was on sale. But you find out that it is not on sale anymore. Because of this you are disappointed and sad.

If any of you are able to go to Nicaragua one day you will find out that one of the things that never happen there “on time” is to begin a meeting or any activity at the right time. Sometimes we have to wait for an hour for an activity to begin. This completely bothers me. Perhaps this is because now I am used to the Canadian system where we start anything at the right time or at less five minutes late which is not a big deal.

The examples that I just gave you are quite minor, in that we get over them after awhile - but there are many other things that come across our path which are not so easy to overcome. These are things that will tear away at our spirit.

In order to discover what those things may be, you need to ask yourself what recent on time needs present stress in your life? Could they be prayers that seem to go unanswered, challenges that God gave you years ago that still delay you in reaching your dreams? Only you know what “on time” needs - stress you out. Do you find that you can easily get impatient when you are waiting for something to happen at the proper time? Have you thought to yourself that maybe your version of what should be “ON TIME” might be better than God’s version?

Whatever stress we endure as a result of things not being on time, we can admit that it would be nice if we were able to always give up our worry like nature, and simply rest in the promise of our Lord to do right by us. But that is not always the case. No matter how hard we try, we can still become stressed due to things not working out for us at the proper time.

What I am getting at is that receiving on time answers to prayers, needs, and objectives are obviously very important to us. Mothers know very well how bad they want their babies to arrive “on time.” Failure to have this baby “on the right time” will most definitely bring about stress in the family. Not just stress due to our impatient desire to have this baby, but also stress in a more physical way. We all know that when a mother gets close to her 40th month, things are more than just a bit uncomfortable.

The stress of waiting can also cause more fatigue, restless nights, and body pain for both wife and husband.

This example does not just connect to expectant parents though, because the same results can happen to anyone who stresses out over on time needs. That is why chiropractors have such a huge business, there is a lot of stress going on out there, and much of it relates to on time needs not be addressed at the proper time.

Failure to receive "on time" answers can also cause you to lose sight of God's control in your life. And that is when things can really get over our head. When we stress out, it is almost as if we forget all the many times God has come through for us. For example, in the past He has given us the right Scripture for the right time, and always before we totally lost it. He has given us a place to live, which had to be at the right time or else we would have been living on the street.

In my case God has given me the right days and the right time to cross the borders in Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, USA, and Canada in order that I be able to preach His Word to you from this pulpit. God has been all the time next to you and I, even though we have not felt Him or have thought that He is not working hard enough.

But you know my fellow redeemed; He has given you a job at the proper time, and I am sure He has helped you find a way to pay those bills at the right time, even when money was scarce. But yet we can forget all those other "on-time" events when we are dealing with another stressful "on time" need today!

Maybe that is why our Lord gives to us this text today. He says in v. 6, "**For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**" Here is our center point passage of "on time" answers. This text has got to be the greatest example of God coming through for us at the right time.

What makes this text such a center point text for our "on time" needs? Do you remember those old campy movies that would have a woman on the brink of some sort of disaster and just as she was about to be killed, a stranger would appear and rescue her? Well, that is what God did for us. There is no doubt that we were on the brink of disaster because we were enemies of God. Look what being an enemy of God did for Satan? He was and is still doomed to a life of complete separation from God.

All humanity was doomed to an eternity in hell as well! We were heading for a lifetime of total separation from God. We were basically hanging above a bottomless pit, while holding to a rope that was covered over with oil and fire. God could have just let that rope burn through but at the right time He saved us. At the right time He not only pulled us up to safe ground but also gave us the means to no longer be an enemy of God, but instead an adopted heir.

Let us talk about that enemy status a little bit more. It is clear from God's Word that we did not have to make ourselves righteous before God in order for Him to act at the right time and save us. The fact, that God acted while we were yet sinners, adds another level of comfort to us. It is so easy to try and bargain with God when things do not happen for us at the right time that we choose. In times of need we can make all sorts of promises to God, thinking that He will act only if we choose the right things to say or make the right promises.

But since God did not wait for His people to suddenly start acting righteous then, we can be assured that He will not expect us to act more righteous now in order for Him to act. His perfect timing therefore has nothing to do with what we say or do and that takes off a lot of pressure from our shoulders. Furthermore, if Satan tries to convince you otherwise, you can remember God's word today and trust that God will act at the right time, by His will not ours.

Verse 1 from our text says, **"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."** This peace enables us to rest in God under any circumstance. No longer do we have to stress out, or lose hope, or depend on our own actions to bring forth the "ON TIME" answers we seek. With the peace of Christ, and with the Words we have read today, we can rest in Him and trust that since He came to us at the right time, to bring salvation - how much more will our Lord come to bring forth HIS "ON TIME" answers to us?

And if you ever find yourself stressing out over the burden of your "on time" expectations passing you by, simply turn to verse 8, which says **"<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

That was the situation when God acted. We were engulfed in the flames of our own sin when God sent His Son to rescue us even though God knew that it would cost his Son's life. Would you do that? Would you send your child on to thin ice to rescue his drowning friend if you knew your son would die in the process?

What if that drowning kid **is not** your son's friend, but the bully who had stolen your son's lunch money and covered him with bruises and ridicule every recess? That's what God did when He sent Jesus to rescue us...and for free. We will never receive a bill in the mail for what God did to save us from hell fire. God's love is amazing because it is for us no matter how "terrible" the sins we have committed or how small we may think those sins are.

Because of God's amazing love is that we continue to stand in His grace, says Paul. That grace holds us to God's heart the way your seatbelt holds you into your seat not just when you are cruising safely down the highway but even, when you are crashing into a barrier! And so I do not have to worry about dying before I can confess some sin - as if God's love and forgiveness is something I earn by constant confession. No, my status with God depends on what Jesus has done for me on the cross.

Through faith in Him I am and remain a forgiven child of God. No matter what foolish thing I did yesterday. No matter what boneheaded thing I said this morning. Everything is OK between God and me, for Jesus' blood constantly cleanses me from my sins the way eyelids constantly whisk away irritants from the eyes by blinking every few seconds.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the good news today is that any answers that wait on God's good timing will be answers worthy of the wait. Therefore be of good cheer whenever you need "on time" answers; for God will come through. And if you find yourself waiting, then give thanks that you are able to wait on God and that He is willing and ready to answer our hearts and prayers through His Son Jesus Christ. This is what our text is telling us today. God's good timing is always worth the wait. It is something to think about it! In Jesus' Holy Name. Amen