

80 is the new 50. Okay, that may not be true in terms of fashion or energy; but it is true in terms of life-expectancy. In 1913 if you lived to be 50 you had beat the average, today that mark is 80.

Modern medicine, safer travel, greater knowledge and technology: people's confidence they have many years yet to live is highest it has ever been in America, by far.

But a troublesome side-effect of better health and longer lives is the loss of something vital.

While the Gospel still holds as much power as it did on Pentecost, many have lost the URGENCY to act now. There is plenty of time to deal with other things first, and then be right with God before the end.

Too many know that Baptism is essential for the forgiveness, but lack the sense of "now or never." Others know there is sin in their lives that must be turned from, but there will be time for that later.

And, simply put, you just don't see that among saved people in the years the Gospel was introduced: **Matthew 25:10-13** - "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour." In that story some were not ready when the groom was ready, and the lost entrance.

**Acts 16:31-34** - In the middle of the night, those who believed were baptized and saved.

**Acts 8:22-24** - Simon was humbled and asked for help and forgiveness immediately.

But in our time, with our health and longevity and so many things with which to busy ourselves, Satan has a message, a message he'd like for me to share with you: THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME.

1. **II Peter 3:3-4** - Plenty of Time to Follow Your Own Lusts and Repent Later
  - a. It has been 2,000 years since anything supernatural happened. Certainly the Lord is not coming back in your lifetime. So you do have a lifetime to be right with God.
  - b. You have plenty of time to follow your own lusts: to live for your own flesh and later, once the fun has been had, you can turn to God and be saved.
2. **James 1:22-24** - Plenty of Time to Fix Obvious Spiritual Issues Another Time
  - a. Sure, there may be changes you need to make in your life. And when you look into God's word, you see them as clear as in a mirror, but the mirror isn't going anywhere.
  - b. You have plenty of time to disregard what the Bible demands, see what's out there, live your own way. Every morning the mirror will be there, and one day you can take a look.
3. **James 4:13** - Plenty of Time to Put Career First Now and God First Later
  - a. Because even the Lord knows that you need time to get ahead in this life. You can't put the kingdom first right now. You have to get your education, start and succeed in business, put together your career.
  - b. You have plenty of time, once all that is set up, to start putting God and His people first.
4. **Acts 24:25** - Plenty of Time to Face Your Fears in the Future and Be Baptized
  - a. As for obeying the gospel in baptism and having your sins washed away? Sure, it is important, but surely there will many other opportunities, as with Festus and Paul.
  - b. You have plenty of time to face those fears, and what it means to repent, and be saved.

And with all those reasons laid out, let's hear it straight from the devil's mouth:

5. **Genesis 3:2-4** - "You Surely Shall Not Die!"
  - a. The world is yours and everything on it is for your taking. Nothing you do will have lasting consequences and you can make it right later: no cost.
  - b. You have plenty of time to live a life of restraint. Your choices won't hurt you.

Well, maybe he is right? Maybe everyone in this room will live consequence free lives until at least the age of 90, with plenty of time to do what should be done today. And we will not all be called to see Jesus at an unexpected time.

Or maybe you are **Matthew Montemayor** (or countless people just like him). You don't know Matt. He was a teenager who visited with us several times when I first started preaching in Cleveland. He came to several services. We talked about salvation and handed him material and offered to study. But, he wasn't interested in that. He was starting his senior year and had a lot of his plate. He just wasn't yet ready to address his soul and eternity. Of course, there is no way he could have known that the morning after he did not answer the invitation, a car would cross the median and he would be gone.

I pray, often, that my family nor any of my Christian family leave this earth in that way. But what makes us so sure we have time that he did not?

Or maybe we, all of us, are the people of **I Thessalonians 4:16-17**. The billions who will be on earth when time stops, the Bridegroom returns with a shout and myriads of angels, and the time to prepare is no more. The faithful are swept away and the unfaithful, the unprepared left to judgment.

*One thing is crystal clear. No matter your age, situation, what choices you have before you today... this one message is true for us all: There is most definitely NOT plenty of time. There is no time but this time and God expects us to use it as if this is all we have. Because for us all, at some unexpected point, it will be.*

In each of the passage provided earlier, where Satan might direct you to believe a lie, the Truth about life is the real point and power of each text:

1. **II Peter 3:8-10** – Those who put off holiness to follow lusts are missing some major Truths!
  - a. God has brought destroyed the world before and in a time no one expected!
  - b. God is not affected by time, but only allowed today to happen so someone may REPENT!
  - c. So, time is not mine to do with as I please, but His, and handed to me to seek and find Him.
2. **James 1:22-25** – The mirror, the measure, the truth is presented to change me today!
  - a. There is no guarantee I will have His word before me tomorrow. One day it will be gone.
  - b. And it isn't here to give me something to come back to after I've chased blessings, but to be seen and obeyed right here and right now to make His blessings possible: today!
3. **James 4:13-16** – Life is so short and uncertain. We make long term plans in a short term life.
  - a. Education, business, income, retirement – All pursuits, but none guaranteed to be attained and guaranteed that none will remain forever!
  - b. Live IF the Lord Wills, by living AS the Lord Wills: Seeking first His Kingdom always!
4. **Acts 24:25,27** – It wasn't the right time, and for 2 years it became easier to ignore.
  - a. There is no record, Biblical or otherwise of Felix obeying the Gospel in baptism.
  - b. Is Felix in torment right now? Has he been in agony for 2,000 years constantly thinking back on that moment when he let FEAR keep Him from FREEDOM in Christ.

The devil is a liar and his deception is intended to keep us from what God has freely given:

5. **Genesis 3:4, 13, 19** – They Did Die! To the blessings, spiritually to God, and physically!
  - a. The devil says, "go your own way, reach for what you wish, it won't hurt you."
  - b. But God says, "do as I say. Do it today and tomorrow, for when I tell you 'no' I am protecting you from loss, from pain, from death. Who do you believe?"

**Conclusion:** 2 passages to leave you with this morning ... and then the invitation to act is yours.

- 1) **Eph. 5:15-17** --- There is so much sin and evil and foolishness and wastefulness in this world. Be wise. Make the most of your Time. Not future time. You don't have that. Days are evil and the future doesn't even exist. The time you have is right now. The moment. Make the most!
- 2) **I Peter. 4:1-3** – Do you believe verse 3? If you have lived in sin and put off repenting, obeying, serving. First and foremost, thank God for bringing you this far, to this day, this moment.
  - a. Then, tell the devil enough is enough. Tell God there is no time left, not a second, to waste outside of Christ or serving self. Every precious second will be spent for Him.