

***The Test of Time***  
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***Introduction:*** Our God offers us wisdom that the world cannot obtain!

- A. A very powerful test of value is how long a thing will last.
  - 1. Before I buy a device I look at customer reviews. Often I know in advance why something is so cheap! (Ex. MP3 Player)
  - 2. How many things have you purchased or gave time and energy to that which proved to be a great waste?
- B. We serve a God who known perfectly what will stand the test of time!
  - 1. We are so limited in what we can know on our own. **(Ps 90:10-12; Job 38:2-4)**
  - 2. I challenge anyone to test the values that God gives us in scripture by time.

***I. Time's test on things***

- A. At best we may have things for the duration of our lives.
  - 1. But how long will that be? **(Lk 12:19-20)**
  - 2. This has no impact beyond this life. How does that compare to the life to come? **(Ecc 2:18-21)**
  - 3. Where is value found in this life concerning things? **(1 Tim 6:6-8; Eph 4:28)**
  - 4. Value is found in the contentment in knowing God and thus knowing the proper place of things!
- B. The Jews placed trust in the physical temple.
  - 1. Jerimiah tried to get his people to understand. **(Jer 7:3-4)**
  - 2. Jesus tried to also explain the temporary nature of the temple. **(Mt 24:1-2)**
  - 3. God has pleaded with people throughout time to trust in Him by knowing His ways and changing our lives to be like Him.

***II. Time's test on people***

- A. Fools and their friends will pay a hard price over time.
  - 1. Fools simple care for the present and have no desire to learn what will last! **(Ecc 7:4-6; 2:14; Prov 17:12 NRSV)**
  - 2. Fools are fun and love to laugh. They have great confidence and will tell you what you want to hear.
  - 3. Fools also will lead you to great pain. They also will not learn even after great failure. **(Prov 13:19-20; 26:11; 27:22)**
  - 4. This is a common mistake of students who make their closest friends those who do not know God.
- B. Who then should you choose to be closest to you? **(Prov 27:6, 9, 17)**
  - 1. Consider the question of who you may eventually marry.
  - 2. What does God's wisdom tell us about this? **(Lk 1:6; 1 Cor 9:5; 1 Pt 3:7)**
  - 3. Who makes the best mate? How many look for such a one? **(Prov 31:10-11, 28-29)**
  - 4. What are the consequences of marrying one who does not know God?

### ***III. Time's test on actions***

A. Our God has pleaded with us concerning sin and its consequence.

**(Ecc 18:31-32; Mt 23:37-39)**

1. Because God is holy He will never change in His attitude towards sin.
2. Our God also knows what sin does to all that is good for us, our health, our relationships and our very heart.
3. God tells us what is wrong and then shows us the consequences and even urges us to look around us to see it in our world! **(Rom 1:26-31)**
4. Because the consequences of sin are often not immediate, men are easily swayed to think they are so smart to avoid the consequences. **(Gal 6:7)**
5. Consider how sexual immorality can affect your entire life.

**(1 Cor 6:18; Prov 6:32-35)**

B. Consider the kind of teaching needed in the home and in the church.

1. What happens to a child that is not taught and reprov'd? **(Prov 29:15, 17)**
2. What happens when a church is not taught the "hard things?" **(1 Cor 3:10-13)**
3. What kind of teaching is needed in each? **(Deut 6:7-9; Acts 20:26-27, 31-32)**
4. Some substitute food and fun for teaching. **(Jn 6:26-27, 44-45)**
5. The fruits of a lack of teaching are not immediately seen. Many opt for the easiest course. Some even want fewer services and less teaching.
6. It is likely a compliment when your child calls you a "mean mother" or an immature Christian calls your teaching "negative!"

### ***IV. Time's test on our hearts***

A. Consider the difference between physical beauty and a beautiful heart. **(1 Pt 3:3-4)**

1. The world gives attention to the body and the current fashion. God places a very limited value on this. **(1 Tim 4:8)**
2. A teacher counseled a student on the difference in athletic and musical ability.
3. Consider physical beauty and God's love in the marriage relationship.

"Marriage will always be for life when both of the marriage partners live in the love of God. When beauty fades from the cheeks and luster from the eyes, when wrinkles appear and steps become harder to make, true love will have increased with the passing of time and physical beauty."

B. What are the most valuable things to place in the heart?

1. Faith will cause us to see, stand and fight in this life.
2. Hope will cause us to see value and reject that which cannot profit us in eternity.
3. Faith and hope will also end with the end of all physical things.

**(2 Cor 5:7; Rom 8:24-25)**

4. There is one thing that will last throughout eternity. **(1 Cor 13:13)**

***Conclusion:*** Are you looking to that which will last? **(Psa 46:1-3)**