

**What Time is it, Mr. Fox?**

We are fascinated with the concept of time. There is even a children's game called "*What time is it, Mr. Fox?*"

One child is the Fox, who stands at one end of the room with his or her back to the others. They call out, "What time is it, Mr. Fox?" The Fox gives a time on the hour, such as 9:00 or 1:00, and the children advance towards the Fox that many steps. When the Fox thinks they are close enough, the Fox can shout "Midnight!" and turn to chase the children. Those who are tagged before returning to the starting line are out, and the game repeats with the children who are left. Eventually only one child remains untagged, and that person becomes the next Fox.

We often say that time slips away from us, or we wonder where the time went. With God, it's not so much that we need to know what time it is; rather, we need to understand that the time is now. We'll see what that means in this week's study.

**Monday – What Time is It?**

*"Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise."*

Thomas Watson, 17<sup>th</sup> c. English pastor

1. Please read Romans 13:11-14. What is the overall theme of these four verses?
2. Look at Psalm 74:16. How do you feel knowing that every hour of the day belongs to God? Would you rather that there were times when God is off duty? Why, or why not?
3. After reading 1 Kings 18:21-39, write down some thoughts about how Elijah relied upon God's constant wakefulness? How did this work against his enemies?

**Making it Personal:** Are there times in your day that are difficult for you or that you have not yet turned over to God? Talk to him about this now.

**Tuesday – Keeping a Lookout**

*"My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning."* Psalm 130:6

1. Please read Romans 13:11-12. What nighttime and daytime imagery is used here?
2. After reading Matthew 25:1-15, consider how Jesus emphasizes the need to stay vigilant no matter what time it is. How does this story apply to you?
3. Shortly after Jesus taught his disciples to be vigilant in Matthew 25, he called on them to put it into practice in Matthew 26:36-50. Why do you think they had such a hard time with this? How would you have done?

**Text Insight:** Jesus did not ask his disciples to do anything apart from him, but rather asked them to "keep watch with him." How does this encourage you in following Jesus' teachings?

**Wednesday – Armor of Light**

*"Sunlight, though it has no favorites, cannot be reflected in a dusty mirror as clearly as in a clean one."*

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

1. Please read Romans 13:12-13. By looking at the list of indecent behaviors to avoid, what do you think Paul means by behaving "decently"?
2. Take a look at Ephesians 5:3-7 for a list of "deeds of darkness"? In what ways do you engage in these activities, even to a slight degree? When are you most likely to fall into such behavior?
3. Now read the surrounding verses, Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-14. What does this say about the light, about sleeping, and about staying watchful?

**Prayer Focus:** Pray for Christians you know to stay watchful and vigilant in order to live as light in this world.

**Thursday – Clothed in Christ**

*"God is not against us because of our sin. He is with us against our sin."* Anonymous

1. Please read Romans 13:14. What are we to do? What are we to avoid even thinking about? Is this easy for you? Why or why not?
2. Take a look at Colossians 2:9-10; 3:12-14. What does it mean to be clothed with Christ?
3. How do Psalm 93:1 and Psalm 104:1-2 describe God? What do you think of the idea that you will be clothed by such a majestic and awesome God?

**Digging Deeper (optional):** Read Esther 6:1-11 for a vivid description of what it meant to be clothed by the king.

**Friday – Today's the Day**

*"Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart."* Brian Doerksen, songwriter

1. What does Hebrews 3:7-15 say about "today"? When do you think "today" is?
2. Please read Joshua 24:14-16. What does Joshua call upon the people to do that very moment? How have you responded to that same call?
3. Now look at Joshua 24:31. Joshua and his fellow workers made their choice for God. How did that affect the people around them? When have you been affected by someone who daily has chosen to follow God?

**Making it Personal:** Pray, asking the Lord God to guide you in choosing daily to follow him.

**For the Weekend:** We have learned this week about how important it is to live for God in the here and now. Integral to this is being clothed in Christ. If you have not yet read Col. 3:12-14 and Ester 6:1-11 (a great image of being clothed by the king), please do so. Then, re-read Romans 13:11-14. What response do you need to make to God today?