

QUIET TIME

Have you ever wondered about the time we live in; how we spend it or, as in most lives - how time is wasted?

Do you think God would call Abraham out of Los Angeles, today? Would he go? (okay, I picked a bad city as an example)

And, what about Moses approaching the burning bush? Would he grab his cell phone and call 911 to report a fire?

Our life is a busy one; to be sure. How busy is it, you ask? It is soooooo busy... that most people don't have the time to read my weekly Newsletter.

Gotta slow down, friend. You know, like that old saying, "Stop and smell the roses."

Then, there's competition in every sector of our lives. In retail, product lines battle it out for shelf space. One foot of shelf space at Safeway Stores, Inc. (my old employer) means hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Choices? We got 'em! But, I don't want them. I get irritated at the pop-ups on my computer and every other sell job; whether, TV, Radio, Newspapers or, anywhere (everywhere) else.

I don't have call waiting. I don't own a cell phone. I don't go to movies. TV time is short; a news item or two and, a baseball game, now and then.

So, you ask, "What do you do, Brother Jim?" I go to Church, visit with members, have Bible study and read the Bible through in a year.

I, also do the family things. I have Border Collies Dogs that are always at my feet. I used to ride horses; but, haven't felt like doing that for a few years.

I do spend many hours on the computer. I write. Currently, other than this Newsletter, I am writing a fairly long paper on Circumcision to send to a brother that needs to understand this Covenant tenet, in a spiritual way.

Oh, Yes! Lavon (my wife) and I play a game of Mexican Train Dominoes; usually, daily. We use the twelve set; which, takes about an hour. Then I scoop poop.

Quiet time and scooping poop go together like a horse and carriage, I think the song said. In the first place, there isn't a lot of thinking. You just gotta pick up the muck fork and scoop. And, because it doesn't require a Doctorate in Astro Physics to move manure, a guy can do an awful lot of thinking.

But, thinking isn't the best word. It's more like ruminating - almost meditating, when I'm out in the pasture with fork in hand. Now, I know that you are dying to read what my meditations are about; so, I think I'll tell you.

Out in the hot sun with my goofy looking hat that is more like a bonnet (sun glasses on and sun bloc rubbed in), is the best of QUIET TIME. I have no disturbances, at all. My thinking goes like, "How can I explain this verse better." Or, "Will the Lord take in account (a particular point) on this judgment or, will He go strictly by what the word says.

Now and then, I think about a church member and ask, "What was he or she thinking?" I think about the lost people, a lot. And, saved ones that don't have time to serve the Lord. I'm thinking of making a tract that says:

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LIGHT OF HIS GLORY
SCORCHES
THIS WORLD
BEFORE YOU THINK ABOUT ETERNITY**

99% of pasture time is waiting upon the Lord by dwelling upon His Word. And, that's a couple of hours per day, on average.

I think about how Jesus would do competing with people in this INFORMATION AGE? Would His message be received, written down and preserved? Or, would people reject His life saving, truthful words? Would people put the Bible on the shelf and be too busy for church service?

Of course, Jesus wasn't received in His day. And, He competes with outside information today; just as He did with the Gadarenes in His day (Lk 8:37). It's just that there were no cell phones stuck in the swine herder's ears or cords, attached to Ipods and other electronic devices.

It's not the number of people; nor, is it electronic inventions that rob men of quiet time. It is the age we live in; which, according to prophecy in many books of the Bible, is going to get busier, more evil and, much more worldly. Soon, people will have no quiet time. Even, my pasture time may be taken away.

Getting back to the first sentence about quiet time, have you ever thought about why God choose 2469 B. C. (Before Christ; not B. C. E.) to speak to Noah? The ark would float today, wouldn't it?

Why did God call Abraham in 1921 B. C.? Or, speak to Moses from a burning bush in 1491?

In 760, God spoke to Isaiah; which, could describe America, as a whole or, any portion of this great country. "**The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib: But, Israel doth not know - they have forsaken the LORD**" (Isa 1:3, 4).

The only reasonable explanation is: these men had Quiet Time. They were shepherds, herdsmen and tillers of the ground. When they rested, they mediated upon the LORD of heaven. They had REAL quiet time that was used to read of God, listen to Him speak and act, accordingly.

With advancement, comes modern living. With modern living, comes spiritual drought. Men forget what grandpa taught in Sunday School. Uncle Bill's heart stirring message on condemnation, no longer is practical in a world of "people to see, places to go and things to do."

With the exception of Sodom and Gomorrah, God spoke to His prophets, within a serene location. They heeded the message.

Jeremiah, nor his wife, took the kids to soccer practice. Paul never skipped church for a PTA meeting or an "Open House" at school.

It there ever was a time to seek God, it's today. Every person needs Quiet time, today. Without Quiet Time, the necessary Spiritual understanding for life, will never be seen; nor, followed.

But, people can't be quiet, even in church; can't sit that long. Whoa! Slow down and listen. For, an, "I don't know" - kind of reply won't fly when Jesus asks, "**How is it that you have no faith?**" (Mt 4:40); or, "**Whereunto shall I liken the Kingdom of God,**" (Mt 4:30) - something that I often dwell upon while pasture scooping.

If we truly desire to know about God and Jesus; as well as His teaching about the Second Coming on earth, we have to have quiet time. Make room for it.

You can call it what you want. You can *envision* His rule on earth; *imagine* His glory; **consider** how the world will be; **assume** that you'll be there; and, **believe** in Jesus on a daily basis.

Just remember, **YOU NEED QUIET TIME**. Put down the remote control and go up with Jesus to a mountain and study with Him. Get off the freeway that leads to worldliness and take off on a boat to a remote place where you can get instruction from Him.

When it comes feeding the soul, only spiritual truths will provide what is needed for necessary life. Set a time, once a day, for quiet time. Think on the truly important matters of life. Toss all those gadgets away and spend time with the LORD and with His word, daily. David, the Psalmist did:

"O God, thou are my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsted for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is," The 63rd Psalm, v 1.

Quiet Time works. It is asking to receive, seeking to and find and knocking to have it opened. That's what Jesus taught in Matthew 7:7.