

Ticking Away

By Santiago Lange



Time is one of the most precious commodities we have.

Chuck Swindoll, the well known Christian author once shared the following illustration: *"Let's pretend that your banker phoned you late Friday night and said he had some very good news. He told you that an anonymous donor who loves you very much has decided to deposit 86,400 pennies into your account each morning, starting Monday morning. That's \$864 a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. He adds, "But there's one stipulation... you must spend all that money that same day. No balance will be carried over to the next day. Each evening the bank must cancel whatever sum you failed to use."*

With a big smile, you thank your banker and hang up. Over that weekend you have time to plan. You grab a pencil and start figuring; \$864 times 7 equals over \$6,000 a week... times 52. That's almost \$315,000 a year that you have available if you work hard to spend it all each day. Remember, whatever you don't spend is forfeited.

*So much for "Let's Pretend". Now let's play "Let's Get Serious." Every morning someone who loves you very much deposits into your bank of time 86,400 seconds of time --which represent 1,440 minutes--which, of course, equal 24 hours each day. Now you've got to remember the same stipulation applies, because God gives you this amount of time for you to use each day. Nothing is ever carried over on credit to the next day. There is no such thing as a twenty-sixhour day (though some of us wish there were). From today's dawn until tomorrow's dawn, you have a precisely determined amount of time. As someone has put it, "Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you want to, but you can spend it only once." Source: Swindoll, *Living on the Ragged Edge*, 53-54*

The point is that we need to make appropriate use of our hours. The Greek word "kairos" which is one of the terms used in the New Testament for "time" describes a critical moment. Redeeming time means to make the most of each moment. Every thinking person has goals and dreams he or she plans for, and even begins to reach for. Yet there are many people who fall short of their goal simply because of limited time or opportunity. True wisdom entails the ability to recognize what is the revelation of God, the belief that in it lies our best welfare and that of others, and the willingness, with God's continuous guidance, to act accordingly. While we must live with an understanding of the past, and in the hope of a glorious future, we also need to be concerned about what God wants us to do *now*. □