



Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™
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The Greek word *Chronos* points to the flow of time—past, present and future. Thinking deeply on the subject of time teaches us that we cannot recover the past, and we cannot skip forward to the future. Even if time travel is theoretically possible, it is not currently feasible. We are simply stuck where we are.

Being stuck then, we severely limit ourselves if we keep appealing to the past by nursing our wounds or seeking to relive a previous success. Neither do we benefit by wistfully hoping for a future different from the current moment we do have. We lose time when we do this and time lost is unrecoverable.

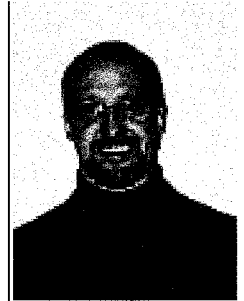
Institutions are just as capable of wasting time, as are individuals. Institutional culture can get stuck yearning for a return to the glory days. An institution can also be so given to vision formation, environmental scanning and planning that it does not fulfill its purpose in real time.

Getting an individual or an institution to live in the present frees up its ability pay attention. They recover a line of sight from past to future because they know where they are and can begin to anticipate what comes next. When the individual or institution seeks to live in a noncurrent moment, that line of sight is lost.

The importance of learning to live in the moment is one of the reasons I believe Jesus reminded his followers that each day has enough trouble of its own, and why they should not worry about tomorrow (see Matthew 6). It also underlines God's profound request that we spend time in worship and rest. Time is so precious and so short, that to devote large chunks of it in worship, service and fellowship reflects a holy priority foreign to a fallen world.

Just as where one's treasure is—and where one's time goes—so goes the heart.

—mark I vincent



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