



Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™
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The powerful moment 31 December 2006

Kairos is a word ancient Greeks used to mean an auspicious moment. Where *Chronos* meant the flow of time and reminds one to appreciate the moment, *Kairos* points to a moment's uniqueness in history and its impact upon the future. *Chronos* tracks time. *Kairos* notes the significance of a time.

A key insight is that we have to get our *Chronos* in order if we want to be able to notice any *Kairos* going on. If I am or an organization to which I am connected is lost in regret or worried about the future, we will not see beyond our own circumstance. If we cannot see beyond our own circumstance, neither can we make any observations about God's redemptive work in that moment.

For the ancient Greeks, *Kairos* meant any significant moment upon which history hinged. For the apostle Paul and other early Christian leaders, however, *Kairos* referred to the advents of Jesus Christ—both the birth at Bethlehem and the Second Coming. All other moments of *Kairos* we experience in our lives, therefore, point back to the birth of Immanuel who redeems all things, as well as forward to the Lamb of God who makes all things new.

It becomes important to ask, then, whether attention to moments of *Kairos* has any effect on my charitable giving? I think so. I celebrate small moments of *Kairos* as part of the larger *Kairos* moment I commemorate during the Christmas season.

As a donor, I am also more inclined to give without restraint where I sense history is being shaped.

As one who invites others to give, I do well to authentically demonstrate a connection between one's momentary gift and the timeless work of God.

As one who invites others to give, I should also note that a donor who gets chronologically organized is far more inclined to recognize and contribute to making moments of *Kairos*.

— mark I vincent



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