I Got a Free Hour!

I couldn't believe what I was hearing! It is a popular radio call-in program in Denver, usually a good and intellectually stimulating program. But, like all call-in formats, they occasionally got a real fruitcake! This kind-hearted, curious woman of advanced age called in with what seemed like a calm but curious question that went something like this: "Can you help me understand how the United States Congress can do something that causes there to be an extra hour of sunlight each day?"

The host laughed and treated the call like the prank it seemed to me. But as the call progressed it became clear that the sweet little lady was serious (or perhaps a great, straight-faced comedian). My take was that she was serious, a bit confused obviously, but genuinely serious. The listening audience got their daily chuckle, and it was all over in a few minutes.

But the time change back to "standard time" might encourage us to consider time itself. This very day (Saturday), we set our clocks ***back*** an hour tonight to get back in sync with the solar system and bemoan the day darkening a bit too soon. But, in consolation, we *get an extra hour to stay awake tonight, or an extra hour's sleep!*

Obviously, we don't really *get an extra hour,* we merely manipulate our clocks. Mankind cannot manufacture time. God grants us time on earth, some more than others. God addressed, through Paul's pen, how we might actually *use* the time we have been given. In Ephesians 5:15-17, God tells us,

> *Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Making the most of our time obviously includes being wise, understanding the present evil in our world, and understanding what the will of the Lord is. (The obvious assumption here is that that Christians in Ephesus were wanting *to actually do* the will of God.)

One definition of "time" is, "A non-spatial compendium in which things happen in a seemingly irreversible order." (Thank you, Mr. Webster!) I prefer this definition: "Time is the stuff of which life is made." How are you using this precious gift of *time/life* that God has given you?

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