

Time Changer

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9 ESV

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die. Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 John 1:4 ESV

Every decision we make will affect our future and the future of others. In the Time Changer (1890) Professor Carlisle wrote a paper about values. Professor Anderson said that it wasn't enough to tell people how to live, but that we also need to let people know why we choose the values that we do. Professor Anderson said that it was important to let people know that we live according to God's standards.

What standard do you use to determine what is right and what is not? Do your standards agree with what God says in the Bible?

Professor Carlisle couldn't understand why including the Bible in his paper was so important. Professor Anderson sent Professor Carlisle into the future in his time machine so that he could see what would happen to morals and values when people no longer turned to God's word for guidance.

What do you think life would be like if you could travel 100 years into the future? Do you think the world will be a better place in the future?

Many things have changed over time. Some things are definitely better. Other changes have weakened our families. Fifty years ago dating and marriage were very different than they are today.

Talk to someone who is older than you and ask them to explain to you two or three ways that values and morals have changed during their lifetime. What effects have these changes made on families today?

When Professor Carlisle to visit a family that was interested in joining the church he was confused that the discussion was more about activities and sports programs than it was about faith.

What activities do you think are important in church?

When it was time for Professor Carlisle to return to the past he was followed by two men from the church who were suspicious of his actions. He told them that Jesus was returning any minute so that he could explain his departure. When he was taken from them one commented, "I think we just missed the rapture." Some churches teach that all believers will be taken to heaven before the end of the world. Others believe that Christians will be taken up to heaven at the end of the earth. Either way, we know that God will be with us to the end of our lives. When our time on earth is over God will welcome all believers to live in heaven with Him forever. Some people are very frightened about death and others accept the end of their lives gracefully and willingly. When we trust in Jesus, He will be with us when life ends here on earth and will be with us in eternity forever. If death frightens you, ask God to take away your fear in Jesus' name.

When building a picket fence it is important to have a pattern. If you use the first picket as the pattern for the second, the second as the pattern for the third, and the third as a pattern for the fourth, by the time you get all of the way around the yard the last board you cut would probably be considerably different from the first. The same is true of our values in life. We need a pattern to base our beliefs on. It isn't enough to just pattern our lives off of other people. The Bible gives us the pattern of how God wants us to live.

Dear Lord, we admit that many times we follow our own way of thinking instead of doing what You want us to do. Give us love for Your word and Your ways. Teach us how to live for You. When our time on earth is completed take us home to be with You forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.