

“Time Is Your Ally”  
For the Pastor’s Corner of the *Shoreview Press*

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Gill, Pastor  
Church of the Living Hope, Shoreview  
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Congratulations to all the graduates on this great milestone of accomplishment in your lives. We celebrate what you have achieved!

In spite of all you’ve accomplished educationally, your personal finances, experience, position may be quite limited today. But there is one commodity you *do* have that can purchase all the rest of these. That one ally is TIME. Time—if you come to appreciate its potential—can give you the finest future for your life.

One of the greatest authors of the New Testament, the Apostle Paul, wrote this advice to Timothy, the young man he mentored.

“Don’t let anybody put you down because you’re young. Instead, you set the example with your life [2 Timothy 4:12 from *The Message*].”

Let me demonstrate to you why I believe time is your ally and how it can maximize your resources in beneficial ways.

Let’s talk FINANCES. The growth of investments compounded over Time is incredible. Take for example \$10,000 and what it can become through time. If your parents had the ability to invest \$10,000 the day this year’s high school graduates were born in a typical investment instrument, figuring conservatively—using the historical norm of 10% growth per year—the computer at Piper/Jaffray says you would have over **\$55,000** today. Or, get this, if you put **\$10,000** in a similar investment today—and don’t touch it—by the time you retire, you’d have over **\$1.7 million**.

Let's talk about PHYSICAL FITNESS. Are thrilled with your weight, body leanness, strength, and stamina? The good news is, you are in wonderful position right now to choose the physical fitness you want.

For example, reducing your diet by one serving of butter a day will result in a weight loss in TIME over one year of over **10 pounds**. Reducing your intake one of pop by one can a day over a year's TIME will result in a **17.7-pound** weight reduction. Or, if the average adult American, started taking a fifteen-minute/one-mile brisk walk each day—they would loose **9 pounds** in one year's TIME. These are such minor changes, but produce such major results. Why? Because TIME has the effect of COMPOUNDING all our good endeavors.

Let's talk MORAL issues—the KIND of person you are becoming. CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, VIRTUE—these are things developed ONLY over TIME!

And here is how. CHARACTER is developed in the crucible of conflict. The problems that come your way will either make you or they'll break you. The trials you undergo will make you bitter or they'll make you better. The way you respond to the hard things you face over TIME develops CHARACTER within.

INTEGRITY, on the other hand, is developed by the way you live when there's no one looking. How you behave when there's no one checking up on you. What you do when there's nobody who could trace an action back to you. Making the right choices, over, and over again, through TIME develops INTEGRITY.

You, the class of 1998, have TIME on your side. I hope you'll see time as your ally and make the financial, physical, moral, and spiritual choices that will the life and eternity you'll love to live with.

*Pastor Debbie*