

## Is there any time for Masonry?

Brethren, in this busy hectic life we live, is there any time for Masonry? Not the time spent in Lodge. Not the time for study or practice, but time for Masonry itself. Time to relish the lessons taught. To contemplate the morals conveyed, to dwell upon its many excellent tenants, to keep all these mentioned qualities alive. Alive to weather the test of time. Alive to last, pure and unsullied. Alive to teach future generations.

The only way this can happen is through your determination and dedication. Your determination not to let our Values and Morals become compromised. Not to allow, the Principals of Freemasonry to be undermined. Not to allow, what defines us from the rest of society, to be destroyed.

Masonry flourishes in time. It needs time like flowers need sun. It needs time for its Values to sink in, like water through soil, there to nourish the roots of mankind. Masonry needs time for its lessons to be transferred, from generation to generation, like seeds in the wind. It needs time to mend the ways of those who have gone off course, like the waters of a rushing river.

You cannot “rush” Masonry. Time is its foundation. It’s the tool it uses to teach its lessons. Time is what Masonry uses to cleanse itself of detractors. Time is what it teaches us, when problems need resolving, when wounds need healing, and when problems confront us, it’s time that provides aid and comfort.

Time moves at its own pace. You can’t rush it, or slow it down. The sun rises and sets at its own pace. You cannot change it; you have to learn to live with it. Masonry teaches the same lesson: not to push situations, but to allow time the opportunity to allow things to happen – to allow them to happen, not make them happen.

Men become Masons. It doesn’t happen overnight; it takes time. It took time to make application to Masonry; you weren’t born with this desire, the desire came over time. You weren’t made a Master Mason just because you participated in a Ceremony or Degree; it happens over time. You cannot demand patience right away; it takes time. You cannot become intelligent right away; it takes time. You don’t excel at a task the first time; to become proficient takes time.

Now if I ask you, how you are going to become a better man because of Masonry, I would suggest the answer would be...in time. So how are you going to use this thing called time? What purpose do you have in store for your time? Is it something you’re going to waste or respect? Are you going to spend it wisely or squander it foolishly? One thing for sure, it’s in short supply. There’s only so much, but we don’t know how much there is. We never know when something will start, or when it will end. Masonry however teaches us how to deal with time between those periods. How much do we know about spending our time?

We know, or should know, that it’s more valuable than any currency in existence. Some of us have money. Some have more than others but what we all have in short supply is time. You can count your money, but you can’t count time, because one never knows how much one has.

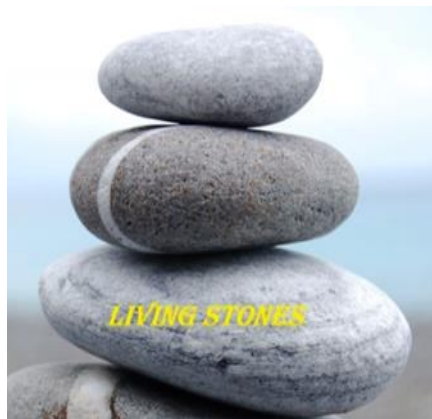
My suggestion is not to count time as a currency, but rather to spend it as wisely as possible, for we know not when it will run out. The best thing we can do is teach others how to live a meaningful life within the confines of their time. The lessons of Masonry do just that. It tells us to die regretted, for we all have so much to accomplish in such a short time that we may never accomplish all our goals.

The key is to leave the world a better place than when you came into it. Masonry teaches us to act upon the Square, be upright with our intentions and, like the Compasses, maintain a Circle of Harmony with all mankind.

Let prudence direct you, temperance chasten you, and justice be the guide of all your actions. When it comes to your time, dedicate yourselves to such pursuits as may enable you to become respectful in your rank of life, useful to mankind, and an ornament to our society.

Use your time to better yourself socially, for the betterment of society as a whole. Be respectful, dignified and true. Use your time so as to leave a positive lasting impression that time itself can not erase.

This is your chance to leave your lasting impression upon others, by which they will forever remember and speak of you. If anything, this is the only thing in life which may be entirely within your control.



*Living Stones - Masonic Thoughts for Today's Mason  
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