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Editorial

The concept of time;

Many a sunny spring or autumn day I used to take 'billy and spade' to go and chip weeds on our family Dairy farm. Cutting the tops of weeds and sprinkling herbicide-prills on to the root system of undesirable plants I found preferable to spraying a poisonous mixture in windy conditions. Many a fellow farmer used to tell me that he would find such an undertaking too boring and that he would not agree with my method. The reason I found such a 'billy and spade' job quite acceptable even if it stretched for hours-on-end was, because after a while, I could do the job subcon-

sciously and at the same time I could let my thoughts wander... And that's when I often delved on the concept of time. A fascinating subject that combines very well with lots of weeds in a paddock!

- Would you agree that besides 'the human nature within us' the most common commodity we share is **time**? From birth to death we measure it by seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years.

- We talk of good times, bad times, times of need and times of plenty, times of joy and times of sadness, times to sow and times to harvest; times for war and times for peace; the time of day, the time of the year; the time of youth and the time of old age; a time to consolidate and a time

to change; a time to grow up and a time to grow old; a time to advance and a time to retreat; a time to accuse and a time to forgive.

- And then there are all the **things we can 'do' with time**; we can save time; spend time; buy time; mark time; waste time; treasure time; limit time; measure time; yield to time; ask for more time; 'doing' time; watch ones time; let it run like sand through the hour glass; we can give of our own time; we can split it into fractions like $\frac{1}{4}$ -time in music; we can even double it, like the military in marching; we can be behind the times, or ahead of our time; etc.

And isn't it amazing **what time itself can 'do'**? It can fly; it can drag on; it can heal many a wound; it will tell; it reveals all things; it marches on..; it does not wait..(time and tide waits for no man), etc.

And then there are different **things we combine with time**: like, time capsule, time chart, time bomb, time exposure, time table, time zone, time slot, time share, etc.

But the most fascinating examination of the concept of time, I believe, is the spiritual aspect. There is one place only where it is written ; **in the beginning of time; at the end of time; in the fulness of time !**

It is of course in the bible. And that's where we also find God declaring that He is the beginning and the end of time. We are told that He always was; before time began and for time eternal.

Have you ever tried as I have done often, to analyse the term eternal? - Sorry, I haven't had any success explaining it to myself so far, except that neither the beginning, nor the present, nor the end of time has anything to do with it!

Maybe we should never use the term *unlimited time* again and reserve it for the concept of eternity !?

- So, can we agree on what time is?
- I do not expect so, but for myself time is contained in God, He is the giver of time, but He himself is timeless. That is the only way I can understand God declaring that His name is: **"I am"**, as it is recorded in the bible. What about giving us your understanding of time, perhaps in a letter to the editor? In the meantime, have a good time!

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