

# Telling Time By Way of Christ

Eugene Boe

## What Time Is It?

This is a common question. We respond in hours and minutes. We may even think of a particular time of day, or a particular day of the week, or perhaps a day of the month, or a certain month of the year.

## What Time Is It?

In the church we have a different way to tell time. The Christian calendar has been determined by the life and work of Christ. In the church, time is

therefore referenced to Christ. Can there be any better way to answer the question "What time is it?" than to answer it by way of Christ! This helps us to think about and see all of

life in relation to Him. All the major events of Christ's saving work and teaching are included. This is what the church year is all about.

## The Christian Calendar

The Christian calendar didn't come into being all at once. The resurrection of our Lord on Easter day is its beginning. This event was

the reason for Christians to gather for worship on the first day of the week. For them, every "first day" was a celebration of the resurrection as they met together in the Lord's Name (Acts 20:17; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Easter was not only celebrated every "first day," which was later called Sunday, but it had its special time in the year.

## Additions

Pentecost was added to mark the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then the

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Christians went back and put in Lent and Holy Week, thus identifying our Lord's way to the cross. In the fourth century, Advent, which calls attention to both Christ's first and second coming, was added.

## Two Halves

The first half of the church year focuses on what Christ has done for

us. This starts with Advent and continues through the Easter season. The second half focuses on the Triune God's work in us. This starts with Pentecost/Trinity Sunday and continues until Advent. It is known as the Trinity or Pentecost season.

## What Time Is It?

This year on November 28, it was Advent time. It is time to remember Christ's first coming to be born for you so you can be ready for His second coming. □

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## The Church Year

