

Being on time is a very critical thing with today's high-speed lifestyle. But you don't need a Rolex to get good accuracy. Nowadays you can go to WalMart and get a very good watch just for a few dollars.

The need for very accurate timepieces really goes back to the early days of navigation at sea. Finding out where you are in the east/west direction requires a determination of the earth's longitude. The star charts of the day were good enough to provide this information if one knew the time with sufficient accuracy. For England, the problem was so great that a prize of 20,000 pounds was offered for the development of a timepiece that would maintain local time to within three seconds a day. A man named John Harrison claimed the prize after successively developing techniques such as a bimetallic temperature compensator, caged ball bearings, and the jeweled bearing.

Current technology utilizes the very precise frequency of certain atoms to keep time to better than three seconds a century. We now have global positioning satellites that encircle the earth to provide timing signals enabling the determination of position information to within a few yards. Who knows what the future will bring. But I wonder what I will lose if I am late by three seconds a hundred years from now.

It reminds me of the line about the most accurate clock in the world. Turns out it is a stopped clock; one that is not even working at all, because it is absolutely perfectly accurate twice a day. Any other clock is a little fast or slow, and is never exactly right. Now you may have to be an engineer at heart to appreciate this, but it is indeed true. So who wants to use a stopped clock for their timepiece? I have several watches at home that don't work, but there isn't much of a thrill in using them.

Can you imagine going around boasting about the accuracy of our stopped watch? We glory in being right or righteous sometimes; but it is sort of the same principle. It is more blind luck than actual ability. As they say, even a blind hog roots out an acorn sometimes. Then how can we regard ourselves as the only right church? How many times have you heard that everyone else is wrong and going to hell? But does our accuracy concern the core of the gospel or merely unessentials?

You've heard of someone who has a face that would stop a clock. Just imagine the gears stripping every time a heavenly clock is stopped by the "us only" attitude. God surely is disappointed when we miss the point of it all. Many times we put more emphasis in being "right" than being like God.

We accept a watch that keeps "pretty good" time. We don't have to strap an atomic clock on our wrist to get by. But we want it dependable, consistent, long lasting. Likewise God's greatest desire is for us to be faithful unto death.

So we should put continue our efforts to obey God, but place the most of our emphasis on trying to be like God. We obey God to avoid the punishment. But when we become like God, we can enjoy the beauty of life and it's Goodness. Perhaps the word "life" should also be capitalized, as it is eternal.

So rather than being perfectly accurate at one or two points, we should enjoy being a working watch; humming along like a finely tuned machine, living to be more like God more every day.