

## **God & our time**

- Monochronic cultures (primarily Western) view time as linear and as a commodity which can therefore be saved or managed or wasted.
- Polychronic cultures (more Latin American, Middle Eastern or African) which have a more flexible approach to time and its being utilised to do multiple things simultaneously; often prioritizing relationships over tasks in doing so.
- Cyclical cultures (often agrarian) which view time more in terms of patterns which are repeated and so things come and go and return again, rather than time moving from past, to present, to future.

### **A: Our time is limited**

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8]

[James 4:14]

We are limited too.

[Exodus 18]

[1 Corinthians 7:32-33]

[Mark 2:27]

[Mark 1:35-38]

[Mark 14:8-9]

## **B: Our time is the Lord's**

[Psalm 90:12]

[Ephesians 5:15-16]

[Matthew 11:28]

[Luke 10:38-42]

[Luke 16:1-9]

## **C: Eternity is a long time**

[Hebrews 11:13-16 & 39-40]

"Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise [...] If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

"Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same."

- **C. S. Lewis**, from *Mere Christianity*, pp. 135-137. Published by HarperCollins.