

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

July 19, 2018

My dear Friends:

It is so good to be back home! But it is awful that school starts in less than a month! Why is it that summer vacation doesn't ever seem to last long enough? I'm not sure if you ever do this—but on our last week of vacation when Sara and I were in Colorado, I kept thinking about this—"time's running out, vacation's ending soon, school's around the corner."

We did have a good time away. We were able to gather all four of our kids in western North Carolina for 36 hours; that was very sweet. Sam drove up from Atlanta, where he is working on a summer research project at Georgia Tech; Liz and Ben drove to North Carolina with Sara and me; and we picked Drew up from three weeks of work at Ridge Haven, the PCA camp and conference center near Brevard, North Carolina. We drove back to Memphis, were at church on July 8, put our two boys on the bus for RYM, and then Sara and I went to Colorado for the week, just by ourselves. We hadn't done a trip like that in four years. It was a very sweet time.

But now, we are back—and it is good to be back home, even with all the heat and humidity. And the truth is that the mindset I expressed above—"time's running out"—it really is true. We don't like to think about it, we put it out of our minds, we live as though we will live forever in this world. But time is running out. That's why the Proverbs tell us, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" (Prov 27:1). God is writing the pages of the book of our lives (Psa 139:16); he knows when the story ends. Yet, especially for those of us on the other side of forty, the likelihood is that there are fewer pages to turn in this book now than when we were born (Psa 90:10).

Here's the thing: it is a good thing that time is running out. Because school's not around the corner! Rather, vacation is! When we come to our dying day, we aren't leaving our best world; we are going to the best world—the place where Jesus is, the place where there is no cancer, no breaking down bodies and broken hearts, no wars or rumor of wars, no hatred or anger or bitterness, no divorce or disaster. We are going to the new heavens and new earth, and we are heading to resurrection bodies and all that is right and good and true and beautiful in this world carried into the next.

That is our true home. When we get there, we will say, "Oh wow! It is so good to be home!" I'm ready—are you?

In the grip of God's grace,



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