

## **Humor Me**

By Ronald P. Culberson

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### **“Where Did the Time Go?”**

Spring forward. Fall back.

For those of us who attend church on Sundays, these Daylight Savings Time phrases are synonymous with either arriving before the church doors are unlocked or arriving late and missing the sermon completely (which is not always such a bad thing). Twice each year, we manipulate time in an attempt to capture a few more minutes of light.

Author Lila Green said, “Time flies whether you’re having fun or not.” As a former hospice social worker, I can relate. I talked with many people at the end of their lives and was struck by the frequency with which I heard, “Where did the time go?”

Time flies whether you’re having fun or not.

Unless you’re Kermit the Frog who said, “Time’s fun when you’re having flies!”

Although this valuable commodity of time speeds past us every second, we do have the ability to make the most of it.

Early in our marriage, we (I) decided that we (I) just didn’t want to spend 4 hours every Saturday cleaning the house. In fact, to this day, I hate cleaning bathrooms. I’d rather buy a new one. So, we (I) hired someone to clean our house. It was one of the best decisions we (I) ever made and I would gladly get a second job if we (I) ever got to the point where we (I) couldn’t afford it.

One of our college friends, Shirley, who is a bit scattered, could never find the time to get her house ready for the cleaning person. So she hired a woman to come in the day before and straighten it up. That makes me laugh just writing it.

Sometimes I worry about the amount of time I spend sleeping. If I sleep seven hours per night and live to be 85 years old, I will have slept for 216,580 hours. That probably seems like a nap to a college student but it works out to 9,240 days or 24 years. With that much sleep, you’d think I could stay up past 10:30 without slumping into a pool of drool on the couch.

Time flies whether you’re having fun or not.

Sometimes time doesn't seem to fly. When the Boston Red Sox were beating the Colorado Rockies 13 to 1, I'm sure every click of the clock felt like a bat to the head for the Rockies. And when I'm having any kind of dental procedure (aka barbaric oral destruction), the clock seems to stand still.

I remember that classic scene in the movie *Risky Business* when Tom Cruise's character Joel Goodsen is stuck at school while Lana, a "woman of the night" played by Rebecca De Mornay, is waiting for him back home. The slow passage of time is painful for him and at one point, the minute hand on the clock jumps backward one click. That's exactly how I feel every time the dentist says, "Open a little wider, Ron."

As the days get shorter and the light starts to disappear, time does seem to fly. I think about this a lot when I look at my children. While it seems that it's been a lifetime since they were born, it was also just yesterday. However, my son no longer shows me something from his nose and say, "My friends call this a booger." And these days, my daughter offers a normal blessing at dinner instead of when, at six, she said, "Now I lay me down to eat."

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I need to remind myself to enjoy every moment of every day. Instead of longing for the four shots of caffeine to kick in, I should try to enjoy the burn as they go down my throat. Instead of beating myself up for having one more dessert at a party, I should enjoy that it's free *and* full of chocolate. Instead of wishing that I was retired and playing golf every day, uh, well, maybe that's not a good example.

Time flies whether you're having fun or not.

I learned in hospice care that I need to live each day as if it were my last.....because one day I'll be right.

Until next time, just humor me.

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*Ron Culberson, MSW, CSP, CPAE is a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including *Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between*. His mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He shows people how to have more FUN while preserving the integrity of the work they do and the lives they lead. For more information, visit [www.RonCulberson.com](http://www.RonCulberson.com).*