
Pro Rege

Volume 46
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue 2017*

Article 6

December 2017

Chronos and Kairos

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Recommended Citation

Zinkand, John (2017) "Chronos and Kairos," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 46: No. 2, 7.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol46/iss2/6

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Chronos and Kairos

John Miller Zinkand – 1999

John Miller Zinkand (1927–2015), Professor of Classical Languages at Dordt College for 25 years.

Two Greek words for “time”
yet different.
We know chronos:
chronic, chronometer,
chronicle, chronology,
anachronism.
Clocks, calendars, birthdays,
history books and Hallmark cards—
all play their respects to chronos.
Kairos is bereft
Of English heirs.
Ours, the loss.
Kairos is pregnant, rich:
Right time, fitting moment,
Opportunity, the “now”
whose foil is “never.”
When Kairos comes,
chronos goes.
Kairos is der Tag,
the Geist-filled Zeit.
Prepare for Kairos,
enjoy it, use it.
There’s always time
for chronos.