

THE CRY OF THE URGENT AND THE WHISPER OF THE IMPORTANT

Text: Ephesians 5:16 & Colossians 4:5

Introduction:

*"In a lifetime the average American will spend:
Six months sitting at stoplights
Eight months opening junk mail
One year looking for misplaced objects
2 years unsuccessfully returning phone calls
4 years doing housework
5 years waiting in line
6 years eating"¹



*"When I get out of balance, I feel as if I am drowning - being pulled down by a huge octopus of details, demands, and emotions. I feel like I'm being pulled from one crisis to another, responding to the urgent instead of to the important. I struggle to get on top of my "to-do list" and don't even get close to my "want-to-do" list. I feel like a frazzled mess, and I have so little energy to get through my day. Does this sound familiar? Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Do you find yourself wishing you had just a couple more hours in your day? Have you lost your joy? Are you always coming up short and feeling exhausted? If your answer is "yes", you have experienced imbalance."²

Ephesians 5:

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. {reprov'd: or, discovered}

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ

¹ Survey of 6000 people polled in 1988, *U.S. News and World Report*, Jan 30, 1989, p. 81. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/t/time.htm> . Accessed 12/31/16.

² Terrie Chappell. *It's a Wonderful Life*, P. 88

shall give thee light. {he: or, it}

15 See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise,

16 **Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

17 Wherefore **be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

20 **Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Colossians 4:

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, **redeeming the time.**

6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Object lesson about priorities....

1. We fill the glass jar with Rice, little rocks, then big rocks and talk about the significance of each.
2. Go on to preach the rest of the message.
3. Filling the jar with Big Rocks, Little Rocks and Rice. You can fit more in this way with less stress.

RICE	SMALL ROCKS	BIG ROCKS	MY PRIORITIES
Small things in life that don't matter	Things that are important and sometimes urgent but aren't most important	Things that are Vital	1. Relationship with God. - Prayer - Bible Reading 2. Relationship with Wife. 3. Relationship with Children.
Video Games	Cooking	Relationship with God	4. Serving at Danville GMC
Excessive Television /	Laundry	Personal Devotional Time -	5. Serving at

Internet		Bible reading / prayer / church attendance	Evangelism Mission 6. Day to Day needs 7. Extended Family
Sleeping in too much	Shoveling snow	Marriage	
Crisis /Interruptions/	Fixing car	Family	
	Lawnmowing	Job etc.	
	Running Errands		

I. What is time?

“John Phillips - We are stewards of our time. Time is a **nonrenewable** resource. It slips past us at an alarming rate. Once it's gone, it's gone. It can never be recalled. We invest each fleeting moment with something even if it is only idleness. Solomon had a well-developed appreciation of the value of time (Eccl. 3:1-8).” “Suppose that a wealthy man were to give someone **\$1440 a day to spend. He had to spend it. The gift did not allow him to save it, still less to hoard it. At the end of each day what was not spent was lost. The same sum would arrive every day until the end of life.** Then an accounting would be made of what the recipient had done with the sum. There it was \$1440 a day to spend or squander, to be used buying things for oneself or in helping others, to be wasted on trifles or invested for eternity. **Every day God gives us 1440 minutes to be spent by us and us alone. We have to spend it. We cannot save up some of today's time for tomorrow. We have none of yesterday's time left over for today. All of these precious minutes are ours. However, when life is over, there will be a strict accounting of what we have done with that time. We, as Christians, will give our accounting at the judgment seat of Christ. The unsaved will render account at the Great White Throne. But an accounting will be made.**”³

“The Greek word is **kairos**, which means time. But not just any idea of time: Kairos isn't about minutes and seconds and wristwatches and sundials. It's not

3 John Phillips. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=34747> . Accessed 12/31/16.

about the flow of time or a specific measurement of time.

Instead, kairos carries with it the idea of the right time - the idea of a pre-determined time or an opportune time. "How much time before lunch?" would not use the word kairos. "Is it time to have lunch?" would. One is speaking of time in minutes and seconds, where the other is speaking of a point in time.

Furthermore, kairos doesn't have to be an instant. It could be a short window of time, like time to take a break. Or it could be a longer window of time, as in harvest time.

And in those examples, the kairos is the time where you better get moving. Those crops aren't going to harvest themselves. It is the appointed time, the proper time, the slice of time where you have an opportunity - but that kairos is going to eventually slip away.

Redeeming the time, to exagarazo the kairos, you are purchasing out of slavery the fleeting opportunities that you are presented with. In other words, you "make the most of every opportunity" or "make the most of your time" as the NASB and NIV translations state."⁴

II. Where Does Time Come From?

God's View of Time..

Where Did time come from?

How God views time - 1000 years as one day

II Peter 3:8 - "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Go to the source to figure out how to use it

Like when you get a new product you look in the owners manual for how to use it... unless your a man.....

III. What should we do with time?

*"Too often I've tried to control time. But the correct verb for time is not 'control', it is 'REDEEM'!"

The word 'control' implies a power struggle between forces, with the weaker being subdued. When I'm in control of something, I've taken charge. It is then my responsibility to direct the outcome. That is why I've been mistaken with time. Time is not an opposing force, it is a gift. Time is not given to me to control, because it is already under God's control."⁵

4 Internet Source: <http://www.lifeofasteward.com/redeeming-the-time-a-closer-look/> . Accessed 1/1/17.

5 Dianna Overholt. Guiding the House. 2015 .

Redeeming: "1805. exagorazw exagorazo" "from 1537 and 59; to buy up, i.e. ransom; figuratively, to rescue from loss (improve opportunity):--redeem."⁶

"Part of the Greek definition for "redeem" implies going to the origin or point whence motion or action preceded." "Redeeming time always begins by going to the Creator of it."⁷

"The UBS Handbook Series adds that

'The readers are being told to seize and use every opportunity to carry on their Christian witness, because these are evil days, In some languages it is necessary to specify what is involved in every opportunity. Accordingly, it may be necessary to translate make good use of every opportunity you have as "every time you can do something good you should" or "you should use every chance to do good". (The United Bible Societies' New Testament Handbook Series or Logos)

The idea then is turning each season (kairos) to the best advantage since none can be recalled if missed.⁸

We are stewards of time

Not producers or controllers but stewards.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

" We will only win that race if we realize the following:

- 1) Time is limited, and it is no respecter of persons - no one will get more hours in a day than another.
- 2) The maximum number of productive years is established by God. (Ps. 90:10)
- 3) Days must be counted. (Ps. 90:12)
- 4) Time is given to us to do God's work. (Jn. 9:4)
- 5) Time is unrecoverable. A lost hour is gone forever.
- 6) Death is certain.
- 7) Time requires accountability.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10.)

In Isaiah 55, the Lord raises this question:

6 Strong's Concordance on Power Bible CD.

7 Dianna Overholt. Guiding the House. 2015 .

8 Internet Source: <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=34747> . Accessed 12/31/16.

1 ¶ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. (Isa. 55. See also, Ecc. 4:8.)

Why do we spend our time on those things that have no eternal value, and very little, if any, value here on earth? The Spirit warns us twice about the use of our time."⁹

*"The importance of time. This may be inferred from the names given it in Scripture--"The day of salvation," "The acceptable year of the Lord," "An appointed time." It is the season in which alone the business of religion can be transacted. Those advise badly who say "there is time enough yet," for who knows what a day may bring forth. It may be longer or shorter, but the day of salvation, like any other, is limited, and must soon come to an end."¹⁰

"Time is given us for most valuable purposes. There are things enough to be done to occupy it all, and no one need have it hang heavy on his hands. He that has a soul to be saved from eternal death need not have one idle moment. He that has a heaven to win has enough to do to occupy all his time. Man has just enough given him to accomplish all the purposes which God designs, and God has not given him more than enough. They redeem their time who employ it

(1.) in gaining useful knowledge;

(2.) in doing good to others;

(3.) in employing it for the purpose of an honest livelihood for themselves and families;

(4.) in prayer and self-examination, to make the heart better;

(5.) in seeking salvation, and in endeavouring to do the will of God. They are to redeem time from all that would waste and destroy it--like recovering marshes and fens to make them rich meadows and vineyards. There is time enough wasted by each sinner to secure the salvation of the soul; time enough wasted to do all that is needful to be done to spread religion around the world, and to save the race. We should still endeavour to redeem our time for the same reasons which are suggested by the apostle--because the days are evil. There are evil influences abroad; allurements and vices that would waste time, and from which we should endeavour to rescue it.

There are evil influences tending to waste time

9 Joel Taylor. Internet Source: <https://5ptsalt.com/2012/03/09/redeeming-the-time/> . Accessed 1/1/17.

10 Internet Source: <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=34747> . Accessed 12/31/16.

- (1.) in the allurements to pleasure and amusement in every place, and especially in cities;
- (2.) in the temptations to novel-reading, consuming the precious hours of probation to no valuable purpose;
- (3.) in the temptations of ambition, most of the time spent for which is wholly thrown away, for few gain the prize, and when gained, it is all a bauble, not worth the effort;
- (4.) in dissipation--for who can estimate the amount of valuable time that is worse than thrown away in the places of revelry and dissipation?
- (5.) in wild and visionary plans--temptations to which abound in all lands, and pre-eminently in our own;
- (6.) and in luxurious indulgence--in dressing, and eating, and drinking"¹¹

IV. Challenges to "our" time...

-Over-Commitment¹²

Urgent crowding out important.

"Wishing for just two more hours a day is a revealing signal that we have taken on more than God ever desired for us to do. Over-commitment is exhausting and it literally makes balance impossible because "urgent" issues will almost always crowd out those that are more important."¹³

-Discontentment¹⁴

Seasons of Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 a time for different seasons. Not good or bad seasons just different ones.

Don't miss out on today because you're wishing for tomorrow.

"Life may or may not get better. In reality it just gets different! I don't want to wait for a better tomorrow and miss out on today! I would rather make today everything that God wants it to be. I would rather joyfully embrace where God has placed me for His glory and make the most of the moments I have right now. I want to

¹¹ Barnes Commentary on Power Bible CD.

¹² Terrie Chappell. It's a Wonderful Life, P. 94

¹³ Terrie Chappell. It's a Wonderful Life, P. 94

¹⁴ Terrie Chappell. It's a Wonderful Life, P. 95.

make the most of life's irretrievable moments, now! I desire to live in the present." ¹⁵

-“Time - Wasters”¹⁶

- Not planning your day properly
- Careless mistakes that take time to fix
- Putting something off until a later, more stressful time
- Not listening to instructions
- Lack of self-discipline
- Excessive television or computer usage (or phone)
- Idle phone chatting
- Sleeping in too much”

-Circumstances beyond our control

As my precious wife wisely says, “Blessed are the flexible for they shall bend and not break”.....

They are still under His control

V. Why Time is so Important

“Why time should be redeemed.

1. It is the most choice and precious thing in the world.
2. When once passed, it never returns.
3. It must be one day accounted for.
4. The shortness and uncertainty of human life.
5. Because of the work we have to do, and the difficulty of doing it.
6. Because we have already lost so large a proportion of the time allowed us.” (Bishop Horne.)

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

“Parents rate their inability to spend enough time with their children as the greatest threat to the family. In a survey conducted for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Corp., 35 percent pointed to time constraints as the most important reason for the decline in family values. Another 22 percent mentioned a lack of parental discipline. While 63 percent listed family as their greatest source of pleasure, only 44

¹⁵ Terrie Chappell. It's a Wonderful Life, P. 95-96

¹⁶ Terrie Chappell. It's a Wonderful Life, P. 97.



percent described the quality of family life in America as good or excellent. And only 34 percent expected it to be good or excellent by 1999. Despite their expressed desire for more family time, two-thirds of those surveyed say they would probably accept a job that required more time away from home if it offered higher income or greater prestige”.

Redeeming the Time

The days are passing swiftly by,
Let us redeem them, Lord, for Thee;
Not waste a moment as they fly,
Nay, e'en the seconds may we buy,
Until Thy face we see.

May we spend well each hour, each day,
In turning loss to perfect gain;
May this be ours; to point the way,
And bring to others Heaven's ray,
Some sunshine 'mid their rain.

May we like sunbeams from the blue,
Seek out each heaving, aching breast;
May we like sun-bursts, e'er break through
The clouds, to give to hearts, anew,
The promise of sweet rest.—*R. E. Neighbour*.¹⁷

Tomorrow

Today is the tomorrow, that yesterday you feared,
You faced it with forebodings, and dreaded as it neared;
But, when it came a-smiling, all filled with sunshine bright,
You said: Why did I worry? God is, and all is right.
Remember your tomorrows are hidden in God's will,
So, fretting not, have faith in God, and patient be, and still;
Then when tomorrow is today, you'll find sufficient grace
To guide you through in victory and with a happy face.
Count up all the tomorrows, in yesterdays you knew,
You'll find as each became today, God led you safely through;
And He who led, will lead you on, till all of your todays,

17

Will stand behind you, all arrayed, as blessed yesterdays.—R. E. Neighbour, in *Gospel Herald*.¹⁸

*"I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first 3 hours in prayer."¹⁹

"What happened to Time?

- When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept.
- When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked.
- When I became a full grown man, time ran.
- And later as I older grew, time flew.
- Soon I shall find while traveling on, time gone."²⁰

"The opportunity - Note the Greek has the definite article (ton) preceding kairon, indicating the "specific" opportunity, implying the specific one that God's providence has arranged and to which the indwelling Spirit makes you sensitive. How critical then is it that we begin each day filled with (controlled by) the Holy Spirit that we might walk by the self-same Spirit, all through the day, ready to seize the opportunity He presents! (Eph 5:18 is intimately associated with "redeeming the time" in Eph 5:16) That is abundant life! That is a life of full joy! Enjoy! Are you arising each morning, aware of your great need for being filled with the Spirit all during your day? There is simply no other way to life a supernatural life! Like a spiritual pauper, seek the Spirit's filling each and every morning."

"Hold tight to the sound of the music of living,
Happy songs from the laughter of children at play;
Hold my hand as we run through the sweet fragrant meadows,
Making mem'ries of what was today.

Chorus: We have this moment to hold in our hands
and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand;
Yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come,
But we have this moment today.

18

19 Martin Luther. Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/t/time.htm> . Accessed 12/31/16.

20 Source Unknown . Internet Source: <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/t/time.htm> . Accessed 12/31/16.

Tiny voice that I hear is my little girl calling,
For Daddy to hear just what she has to say;
And my little son running there by the hillside,
May never be quite like today.

Tender words, gentle touch and a good cup of coffee,
And someone that loves me and wants me to stay;
Hold them near while they're here and don't wait for tomorrow,
To look back and wish for today.

Take the blue of the sky and the green of the forest,
And the gold and the brown of the freshly mown hay;
Add the pale shades of spring and the circus of autumn,
And weave you a lovely today.²¹

The Perspective we need....

Psalms 90

1 <<A Prayer of Moses the man of God.>> Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

21 http://www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/gaither_vocal_band/we_have_this_moment_today-lyrics-318634.html. Accessed 1/1/17.

