

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia
Bible Study for August 13, 2020

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Title: "What Are You Doing With The Time God Gives You?"

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:16

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

I. Introduction

A. It does not matter who you are, your standing in the community, or stature in life, whether or not you are wealthy, poor, or homeless, each of us have only 24 hours in a day.

B. In this natural world, time is essential and it is so vitally important in our lives. To a great extent, the way we use time defines who we are. Consequently, the issue of how we use our time is extremely important.

C. The way we use our money is a measuring stick of what we value most in life, and although financial stewardship is important, the way we spend our time is even more important. Consider this example:

- Some wealthy, well-off and well-to-do people tend to ignore their families for great periods of time, and then they try to "buy" the affections of their loved ones with money and/or material things.

D. Many family members who receive money and material things are grateful. However, no amount of money can compete with spending precious time with loved ones.

E. Time is one of our most valuable resources. Money in some cases can be replaced; financial shortfalls may be made up, but nothing can replace time. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

F. The good news is that we can "redeem the time" (Eph. 5:16). Let's explore this together and my prayer is that you will reflect deeply and then be blessed.

II. Exposition [Part I]

A. Many times we fail to finish what we begin. Consider the following:

- Sometimes a musical writer leaves a symphony unfinished
- A painter leaves a painting uncompleted
- A project is left half-done - why?

B. Possibly because the musician, the painter, or the worker dies. But usually, it is simply the death of a person's commitment that causes the incompleteness.

C. Dreams never become reality and hopes never materialize because those working towards them, sometimes never get beyond the first few steps.

D. The word "redeem" is the Greek word "*exagorazo*" and it means "*to buy out*" or "*to buy back*," and in Ephesians 5:16 this words denotes "*buying up the opportunity*." That is, "redeeming the time," where "time" is the Greek word *Kairos*, which means "a season".

E. You may have lost time by simply wasting it or by using it on things that were not important. However, the wonderful story of redemption is that *your story isn't over*.

F. With God's help, time can be redeemed - that is, by personal carefulness and making the most of every opportunity that God gives you.

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. Today we live in an age of distractions and there are so many things that pull at us for our time and attention. Because of this, we can become distracted from the really important and essential things in our lives.

B. For example, non-stop media entertainment and electronic gadgets fill our modern lives, constantly luring many people away from truly important things.

C. Here is something that is required if you truly want to make the most out of the time that God has given to you; it is the act of *prioritizing*.

D. Here is what I mean - identifying the time-wasters and eliminating them from your routine - or at least reducing the amount of time you spend focusing on these activities.

E. Please listen very carefully. Media and gadgets are not necessarily bad or wrong in and of themselves, but often, they take far too much of our time from the things that should be our real priorities. Such as ***time with the Lord***, family, work, and friends.

F. I want to share with you what I truly believe should be our priorities: **Place God FIRST!** I am also convinced that the proper priorities fall in place like this: **God**, **family**, and then **vocation** (i.e., *work or your job*).

G. It continues to be my biblical belief that when these three are your the top priorities, and you then balance the other priorities in your life, through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, you will discover a fruitful life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

H. Once you have determined your top priorities, focus on those areas and let other less important pursuits fall into place beneath what you truly value most.

I. As you learn to use your time wisely, not squandering it but making the most of the life God has given you, you will find the fulfillment He desires you to experience in every area of your life.

IV. It's Interactive Time

A. Please fill in the blank spaces to complete the Biblical passages below. Each passage has been taken from the KJV. If you are using a different version of the Holy Bible, please look up each passage and write it out completely. I believe you will be blessed.

"Go to now, ye that say, To _____ or to _____ we will go into such a city, and _____ there a _____, and buy and sell, and get _____: Whereas ye _____ not what shall be on the _____. For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that appeareth for a _____ time, and then _____." (James 4:13-14)

"And if ye call on the _____, who without _____ of persons _____ according to every man's _____, pass the _____ of your _____ here in fear:" (1 Peter 1:17)

"I must _____ the _____ of him that sent me, while it is _____: the _____ cometh, when no _____ can _____." (John 9:4)

"I have _____ a good _____, I have _____ my _____, I have kept the _____:" (2 Timothy 4:7)

Questions for you to Consider.

Please be honest with yourself and with the Lord.

1. Can you think of time wasted in your life? Is it too much time on the Internet, texting people, or watching television?
2. Have you ever asked the Lord to help you form a set of priorities for your life? If yes, do you live by them? If not, why not?
3. How many hours a day do you spend on less important pursuits that should and could be used more productively?

I trust that this study session has caused you to reflect deeply and through your time of reflection, Almighty God, through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, lead you into a deeper **faith**, **trust**, and **relationship** with the Lord Jesus Christ.

As always, please feel free to share this material with others and may they too, be blessed.

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Pastor Austin