Using God's Time

Greg Kline · Ephesians 5:15–17

INTRODUCTION

- Everyone here, at least as the Lord wills that we live, has the same amount of time.
- Are you a giver or a taker of time? Consider, do you let others spend your time for you? Are you in control of your time?
- But we will be judged on how we did, and as your translations might say in verse 16, how we redeemed the time?

1 Time Matters

- Can I impress upon you that time matters immensely?
- What is the value of one month? Ask a mom and dad who were surprised a month early by their newborn baby.
- How much do we value one minute? Ask the man who had a heart attack, but a doctor and paramedic were sitting one table over.

2 What Does God Expect From Me?

Romans 12:1–2; Acts 17:11; Acts 2:44–45

- This is perhaps the most important question we face as Christians. What does God expect from me?
- But as a whole, the Bible doesn't really tell us how to spend each and every minute, does it? And so that means that we as Christians have decisions to make.
- They received the Word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
- But I'm saying that God does expect us to help each other out.
- Pray without ceasing. It teaches us the value and necessity of prayer.

3 Being a Christian Is Hard Work

Romans 12:2

- Being a Christian is hard work, and it's hard work that doesn't stop until we hit the grave.
- Because he gets us with things we don't see the value of at the time.

4 Redeem the Time: Life Is a Series of Opportunities

Ephesians 5:15–16; Matthew 25:20–30; Matthew 25:37–40

- Notice in verse 16, the word time there really means redeem, season or opportunity.
- We need to realize that life is a series of opportunities.
- What were the talents? You can look at it as several things, but basically, it was an ability to do something.
- Making the most of the opportunities, redeeming the time.

- The opportunity cost of rejecting what God has given us is eternity.

5 Budget Your Time: List Your Time and Expenses

Ephesians 5:15–17

- What do you do when you have a precious resource like money that you want to be very careful with? You make a budget.
- First of all, list all of your time. We have 24 hours a day, 168 hours in a week, and 720 hours in a 30-day month.
- List all of your expenses. Now, here's where it gets tricky. Write down everything you have to do with your time.
- Money can get away from us like that, but I can tell you time slips even faster.

6 Set Priorities

- Or having a perfectly manicured yard and a not perfectly manicured soul.
- When you're in the car, when you're driving to work, that doesn't have to be lost time.
- Do we set the priorities of God first or do we fill God in with the gaps?
- We need to draw a line. Sometimes in our budgeting, you have to draw a line where spending can go no further.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Will you let him? Will you choose to live that life, seeking to be holy for God is holy, being a living sacrifice, presenting yourself wholly and acceptable in the sight of God?**

MY NOTES