

## **Managing Time**

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Intro:

- A. Use of time separates men from boys.
  - B. Men are not created equal.
    - 1. In background.
    - 2. In natural abilities.
    - 3. In finances.
    - 4. In the amount of time God allots to us.
  - C. Worth is determined by distinctiveness, not by duration.
    - 1. God gives us each an amount of time.
    - 2. We need to be faithful in using time.
  - D. I suggest a study of time in Scripture.
    - 1. This may transform your life.
    - 2. It may revolutionize your impact.
- I.) Redeem your time by walking circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-18)
- A. This means walking with eyes wide open.
    - 1. Not as unwise but as wise.
    - 2. Redeeming the time for the days are evil.
    - 3. The older I get the more I realize my management of time is the barometer of my spiritual life.
    - 4. This requires discipline, a fruit of the Spirit.
      - a. Do you control your time or do others?

b. The Spirit is a gift of God and we are his workmanship and God has prepared work for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

5. If you complain about lack of time it is for one of three reasons.

a. You are doing too much.

b. You are doing the wrong thing.

1. I did not say the wrong thing.

2. We need to distinguish between good and best.

c. You are doing things in the wrong way.

1. We must accomplish things.

2. Jesus went about doing good; we just go about.

3. Busyness can be empty.

B. Principles for redeeming time.

1. Measure your minutes.

a. We all have the same time each day and must use it productively.

b. Most of us operate under the principle of pressure rather than priority.

1. The tyranny of the urgent destroys productivity.

2. Jesus Christ had only three years to launch the church.

3. On the cross he said "It is finished," yet the disciples were in chaos.

4. Don't ask God for more time; ask for wisdom in using time.

5. Time is measured in minutes, not hours

6. My daughter was severely injured in a car accident.

7. Our lives are short, so we should number our days. (Psalm 90)

8. Everything we do is if it is God's will.
9. Imbue our daily work in the light of eternity.
10. A colleague counts how many days left in his productive life.
11. Every day that passes gives us one less to live.

2. Plug the leaks.

- a. Time slips through our fingers like sand.
- b. Once gone time is irretrievable.
- c. I conducted a seminar for a graduate and he reminded me the service must end by 9:00 pm.
  1. He had to get home for a TV show.
  2. I asked him to knock on my door for breakfast and he came at 11:00 am.
  3. He spent much time reading unscriptural material.
  4. He asked what I would suggest to make his ministry more defective.
  5. I asked, "What ministry?"
  6. We talked most of the night and he has turned his life around.

3. Learn to say no.

- a. To be here this morning I had to say "No" to many things.
- b. I am fed up with legalism.
- c. I refuse many things because they interfere with my objectives.
- d. I have the right to say yes to some things and no to others.
- e. Some of you are destroying your families because you can't say no.

f. People invite me to speak at their church and I refuse sometimes to be with my family.

g. It is a discipline to say no.

h. If you are called to be a husband and father you need to take that calling seriously.

4. Relaxation is not wasted time.

a. If you have trouble relaxing your conscience is uneducated conscience.

b. A woman asked me to help her husband relax.

1. I asked this man why he doesn't sleep.

2. He said, "My body is the temple of the Spirit."

3. I asked him then why is he sleeping 4 hours per night.

4. Pattern your life according to your personal needs.

5. A student asked me what I would do if I had only 5 more years to live.

a. I said I'd do what I'm doing now.

b. I'm satisfied that I'm obeying God now.

c. We all need to do God's will and do it with all our hearts.

d. If Jesus comes tomorrow he will reward us.

II.) Prayer.

A. Father thank you for relating to the most practical areas of life.

B. We rejoice that you don't mock us asking for the impossible.

C. Jesus did not heal everyone but he did God's will.

D. Thank you Lord for the realism of your word.

E. Thank you for peace in the midst of life.

F. Amen.