

# **We Want More Time**

## **by Chris Famisaran**

Wow. Good morning, everybody. How'd you like the music? It's so great to be able to have our music. And thank you for coming out and continue to play music for us. Appreciate it and as well for all the band. Honestly, I don't think we do this enough. I want to thank all of our volunteers, especially the last couple of months who have made church possible. Can we just get a big Amen. Thank you. We've had our greeters, our deacons, our temperature checks. And now our band and everything, our Sabbath school teachers, thank you so much. Because without you, church would not be possible. So even the ones that I didn't mention, I'm so thankful for everyone. Thank you for all that you are doing. So let's go ahead and begin a new sermon series. Is that okay? All right, let's pray. God, we thank you for another day that we can continue to worship you. And as we now dive into a new series, specifically that of stewardship. Help us Lord, to know how we can become better stewards, and caretakers of the gifts, the time and everything you have blessed us with. In Jesus name, amen.

So some of you are wondering oh, pastor is going to talk about stewardship, pastor is going to talk about money. Pastor is going to talk about this and that, well, stewardship is not just about money, okay? It's only a small portion. Stewardship actually encompasses our whole lives. So today, we're going to talk about the stewardship of time. And what is stewardship? Well, God has called us to be stewards, to be caretakers, with the things that God has given us. So you all have time, how you manage your time. All right. And, and one of the things that I have found true is that there are people who continually say, We want more What? Okay, so we want more time.

Now, I throw a number up there, 31,536,000. Pastor, did you come up with a random number? No, there's a purposes. Anybody know what that number signifies? Oh, who said that? Oh, very good. All right. We have 31,536,000 seconds in a year. Do you want to break that down further?

There are... Let's go to minutes. There are 1440 minutes in a day. You really think about it. That's a lot of minutes. Right? Now, granted, number of them, you're sleeping, number of them your in school, but you have 480 minutes to sleep, you have 480 minutes to work, or go to school, you also have potentially, you know, some of us maybe have to work longer in the day. If you if you break up, you know, your day and by eights, you also potentially have 480 minutes of free time. What can you do with that free time? You know, with time there's a number of quotes that people have said as well. There's this folklore where it says Time waits for what? No one or time is the most valuable thing a man can spend, Theophrastus.

Now, there is a there is a man named John Taylor, and he is a graduate of Cambridge. He graduated many many, many, many, many years ago, I believe. I don't want to get this wrong. Long time ago. And I think in maybe 1959. And then I think 1999 he went back to the camp to the campus, I believe. He went into a library. And as he looked around the library, he realized nothing had changed. He thought Hmm, interesting. Now what did what did John do? He was actually I believe is a clock And he invented a different type of clock. He invented what's called the Chronophage. Literally, the time meter. He took the Greek words of Kronos and Fujio, meaning Chronos time and Fujio to eat. And he created this clock that had basically like this really evil mean looking grasshopper on top. And as the clock goes around and around, it acts like it's going to eat it. So he's going to eat the mouthful of teeth, and every second of the movement of its drawn. So there's a chain that rattles in a tiny wooden coffin at the back of the clock, and then it slams shut, marking the toil of the hour. Now, he did this, because he wanted it to have the sound of his reminder of his mortality. Now, the pendulum swings a radically and it will slow to a near stop, and then race ahead. So it's not a consistent clock. It kind of reminds us of the occasions where sometimes time will fly, right? Have you ever had a period in your life where just time just zooms by and then sometimes it's like, will this day ever end. And, and so the time piece is only accurate every five minutes. And then blue lights will play a little optical illusion. And those whirl around the clock for one second and suddenly appear to freeze next. Now, Einstein also said that, sitting next to a pretty girl can seem like what a minute, but a minute on a hot stove. That's a long time. So John Taylor, he says clocks are boring. They just tell

the time and people treat them as boring objects yet, this clock will interact with you. And the reason why he built this clock, this clock cost \$1.5 million, because I believe he used gold and silver with this clock. It was to remind the viewers, the people who see this Chronophage, as a reminder to not take their time for granted.

You know, our biggest issue is not organizing or planning our time. Our biggest issue is that we're not convinced we don't have a lot of time. What is important to you, to us? And are you working towards that? Are you accomplishing the goals and the dreams that you have set out or that God has given you? It's important that God is leading us, especially with the use of our time. So Harvey Mackay, he says time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it. But you can use it. You can't keep it. But you can spend it. And once you lost it, you can never get it back. Anybody resonate with this, especially that last part, you can't get it back.

So what can we learn from this? A couple things that we can learn is, number one, be intentional, with your time, be intentional with your time, I want to go to Scripture. Let's go to Colossians chapter four, verses two through six Colossians 4:2-6 Go ahead and pull out your Bibles. Maybe some of you maybe this is your first time coming back. Or you're new. Previously, we used to throw the scripture up there. But now we want you to bring your Bibles we want you to literally get into the Word of God. If you don't have a Bible in front of you, or even bring one you know, pull your phone or your tablet out. Let's go to Colossians four, verses two through six. Okay. Colossians four, two through six

955 in the Pew Bible. Thank you, Gustavo. All right. Oh, we all there. Okay. devote yourselves to what? Prayer being watchful and thankful it's a good model to live by. Spend time with God. Right. Be watchful, be mindful, be thankful as well. And prayers, pray for us to that God may open a door for message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Paul, I believe he's writing from prison here as he's writing to the Colossians and praying that I may proclaim it clearly as I should be wise in the way you act towards outsiders. And this is the key here as well. Make

the most of every what? Of every opportunity let the conversations be always full of grace seasoned with salt, that you may, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Now Paul is talking about mission and going out and spreading the gospel. But I think there's also a, you could broaden this lesson of not just admission, but every day in your life make the most of every opportunity that you have. You know, as parents, you only have so much time when you can raise your child before they grow up. And either a they go off to college, maybe they'll join the military, or they'll get a job, right? You have only so much time to be able to influence your child before they become an adult. Maybe as a teacher, you only have so much time a year to influence these kids that you have been blessed to be able to teach, you name it. In life. God gives us opportunities. And I think Paul is wise. And when he says make the most of every opportunities. What is your dreams again? What are your goals? What has God stirred in your heart in your mind that God wants you to accomplish? And not only with intentionality, but you also have to have priorities. We talked a little bit about this prior to, you know, when it comes to our priorities as well. We vote with our actions, we may say one thing, but does our feet move toward it? Or, you know, what's your priority is God a priority is your family a priority? Your friends, a prayer church is a priority in your life, your work, you know, to be successful as well. You have to have good health, you need to have a good mind. need to be able to mentally be able to take on the challenges you have to have good health physically and emotionally and spiritually. Having hobbies is also a good thing to keep you motivated. Something that brings you joy that you can handle and deal with all of the pressure that life brings you. What are your priorities in life? You know, Jesus points as to ... I guess a couple, there's a couple of passages we can look at. That helps us to be able to help understand and see the priorities that shape up in our life. So again, let's go to the Bible. Let's go to Matthew 6:19. Matthew 6:19 through 24. Okay, we all there. All right.

So do not store up for yourselves what? treasures on earth where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for your treasures in heaven. Where moths and vermin do not destroy and

where thieves do not break in and steal For where your treasure is there your heart will be also. You know, Jesus mentions treasure and treasure is what would what is treasure? It's something that's what it's valuable, right? It's precious. And you know, growing up, I would watch TV. There was one particular Disney movie at the time, early back in the day or 90s. And it was about a boy named Haakon. And I think he I think was actually made by a Norwegian Film Company. Is this young boy he's probably about maybe 13 or 14. And he wants to go and sail and find treasure with his brother. Well, they go out and they get on a boat and they're sailing away. And eventually, something happens to the captain and eventually who runs the sea for treasure? pirates, right? The Pirates capture the ship. And they take over and this poor kid Haakon is marooned on an island. Now the captain pirate the pirate captain is looking for this treasure and he will do everything that he can to find this treasure because it's a large treasure. Well Haakon actually finds the treasure and he hides it. And this captain is relentless. And long story short, Haakon is able to keep the treasure and the captain doesn't get it. But sometimes our priorities we want to get this treasure because it will satisfy us but in the end treasure is just money. If you're going to look at it literally right but can money bring you happiness? No, no amount of money can replace your family, your friends, your relationships are the joy in accomplishing your Mount Everest. Whatever dream you have, right? And but Jesus, you know, Jesus is stating here now. Not money, but the things that are valuable. Your friends, your family. The treasure that you can have in heaven is what's most important, not here on Earth. Because eventually, like you could have the nicest suit or ladies, you could have the best dress and it could cost what's a really expensive dress like ballpark figure? No idea. 20,000 Is that real? Yeah. Okay. Give me a brand name. I have no idea. Okay, I know. Lisa mentioned these types of shoes is Louie Batanes. Okay, y'all, okay, so I hit it right one. And it's really expensive, right? So yeah, you could have a really nice set of shoes. But if a moth or a rat, or a dog could get in the closet, the dog could chew that shoe up. I remember my dad had these really, really nice boots. And I don't remember which dog was but the dog got into closet, he chewed the boot up. Very expensive boots. All of the things that we have here on Earth eventually are going to disappear. But your family, your friends, your integrity. That's a treasure you cannot replace. Let's continue in verse 22. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are

unhealthy, your whole body will be full of what? if then the light within you is darkness, How great is that darkness. So with the eyes, you have the ability to see. And what you see also colors, your perspective, what you see. And what you see informs your thoughts which eventually form your actions and your beliefs. priorities in your life? What are you feeding your mind? What are you feeding your body? What are you feeding your soul? that influences you and the time that you spend as well? Are you spending things that are positive spending time on things that are positive and wholesome, or could be potentially destructive? Finally, here in this passage, sorry, verse 24, no one can serve two masters, either you will hate the one and love the other, or you'll be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Whereas the King James Version also says Mammon.

You know, many people work very hard to make a living. And there are those who work even harder than it actually is necessary. And they sometimes neglect the most important parts of their life. Again, Family, Church, because they want to be able to build an empire. But is it worth it to have this empire when your spouse leaves you? Or maybe when your children come only because they want something from you? You can't serve both. You can only be dedicated to one thing do you desire to be dedicated to God in everything, and allow God to lead and guide you and bless you? Because God will certainly provide opportunities to sustain you. Amen.

Now, there's only one thing more precious than our time, and that's who we spend it with. There's a columnist Alison Lynch, who wrote a story of a young lady at the time. Her name is Diane Kim. Now Diana Kim, had a dad or hope has still has a dad who had a he was a photographer, and he had his own studio. But as a child, her parents just fought and eventually their marriage did not work out. And so he left. And as time went by, he slowly just drifted away and then eventually, he just disappeared. She didn't know where her dad was. But because of her influence of her data, as a photographer, she also wanted to take up photography. And so that was what she became she became I believe she became a photojournalist. And so as she would go out, she wanted to do something with her photography

that would make an impact. So she wanted to be make people aware of the homeless situation that was happening in Honolulu. She would go around and she would photograph individuals who were homeless. And one day I believe it was in 2012. She was, she was taking a photo of a man. And through the lens, she realized this man looks familiar. And all of a sudden, she realized it was her father. Her father had been battling schizophrenia for a number of years. And he was homeless, he was destitute. She tried to talk to him, but he would not even respond as hard as she tried. And finally, there was a woman standing next to her. And she said, Don't even bother, he's not going to answer you. And in her heart, she was just angry. How could this happen? So for the next couple of years, she tried to help him. He refused . Finally, I believe it was in 2014, her father has a stroke, no, a heart attack. Finally, he allowed her to help him. And over time, I believe over the course of a year, he was able to get treatment, I believe he was able to get the help that he finally needed. To the point he was able to get off the streets and actually be able to find a job. Now this young lady Diane, she tried vigorously and hard to be able to make sure that her father could be okay. She'd been looking for him wondering where he had gone. Finally, when she has this opportunity to see him and try to help him, he refuses. Sometimes that can be the hardest thing, right is because you see a family member that you love dearly. And yet, they don't want help. Time has a way though of she was able to get the help, that he needed. She also writes so long as we are alive in this world, every day is an opportunity to take hold of that second chance, there is no failure, unless you give up. And he never gave up. And I haven't given up on him. Family and friends are the closest things that you can have in this world. Because relationships are key. We're not built to live alone. We're built designed for community. That's why we're here right? Because we're here to worship not only God in praise God, but also to be in fellowship, to come together, share our challenges, our joys, our hardship, and to pray for one another.

You know, time flies by and before you know it, again, it's gone. I'm sure as a parent, when your child was in the terrible twos, you probably thought will they ever grow up? Or maybe they were great at two and three, but then when they hit 12, 13, 14, 15 it was a whole nother story. And now sometimes Don't you wish you could just go back to those days. Or maybe

you've just graduated. Next thing you know you get a job. 15 years go by and you realize where did all the time go? Or 20, 30, 40 don't take time for granted. Don't take time for granted. If you have family and maybe you're fighting, I encourage you to reconcile.

Last time is never found again. Benjamin Franklin. Never take time for granted. Let's go to one last verse, Jeremiah 29:11. Some of you perhaps are waiting, thinking God What do you have in store for me? You're wondering, take opportunities take chances try but know this know this. For I know the what? the plans I have for you declares the Lord plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a what? A future. God has a future for you. Then you will call on me. And come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me. And when you seek me with all you will find me with me you seek with me with all of your heart. As you manage your time May God be a priority in your life. seek God with everything because God has a bright and wonderful future. For you, that is going to be wonderful. There may be challenges that God will bless you. seek God with everything. When it comes to stewardship as well, faithful stewardship of our time, faithful stewardship of our time means using it to get to know our Lord, help our fellow men, and to share the gospel. May you be proactive in smiling and being a blessing to others. And when it's time, have your testimony, your story of how God has intervened in your life, to share with that person because that is the greatest and best sharing resource that you will ever have. Because God, people want to know how God has intervened and acted in your life. So may God be with you, bless you. And especially as we get our small groups, I pray that this this series will be a time where you can grow and have a deeper understanding of what stewardship is. So be faithful with your time.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, Lord, you bless this with many seconds and many hours, we take opportunity to make these hours these second sees minutes fruitful for you, but also as well to grow in faith and also to spend time appropriately to prioritize the things that are important for you and for us. Be with each member here and those who are joining us online and those who cannot be here today. Help us to be faithful stewards for you in

all aspects of our life. that others may know who we are, and that Lord be with this church, Lord. Help us to be in a place that people can come to find out who you are, and not only that, accept who you are, and live for you. In Jesus name, amen. Grace, and peace, everybody.