

## **“Don’t Waste Your Time”**

**10/20/19**

**Ecc. 3:1 “3 To everything *there is* a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:”**

**Eph. 5:15-17 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is.*”**

**Now, there are two key words in our first verse from Ecclesiastes—season and time.**

***SEASON* is from the Greek word *chronos* meaning duration of time, how long something lasts.**

***TIME* is from another Greek word—*kairos*—meaning “the right time to do a thing, the moment of opportunity.”**

**Solomon is telling us that God gives to each of us a length of time (*chronos*) to live, and in that length of time He gives us opportunities (*kairos*), the “right time” to do what He has purposed for us.**

**Wise living is learning to do the right thing at the right time.**

---

**Now, this verse dovetails beautifully with Paul's words in Ephesians 5:15-17...**

**"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time (making the most of our God given opportunities), because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*."**

**In these verses, Paul is telling us how to walk out our Christian faith wisely.**

**He advises us to do three things—walk circumspectly, redeem the time, and understand God's will.**

**I want to focus today on the second one. He advises every Christian to:**

### **I. Redeem the time**

**"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (5:16 NKJV).**

**When he says, "redeeming the time" he's talking about making the most of every opportunity God brings our way.**

**Why the big deal about time?**

**Well, let's talk about it time for a moment.**

**First, what is time?**

**Time is measured by a "beginning" and an "end" while eternity is endless.**

**The Bible says, "In the beginning..." (Gen. 1:1 NKJV)**

**The beginning of creation marks the moment that time began.**

**Paul wrote that God chose us in Christ "Before time began" (2 Timothy 1:9).**

**And we human beings dwell in time while God dwells in eternity.**

**And we're pretty preoccupied with time!**

**We talk about how someone or something is "timeless."**

**We wear watches so that we can keep account of "time."**

**We ask about the criminal: "How much 'time' did he get?"**

**As our own lives advance we start wondering: "How much 'time' do I have left?"**

**The Bible speaks much about the brevity of our life...**

**“Seventy years are given us! And some may even live to eighty. But...soon they disappear, and we are gone” (Ps. 90:10 LB).**

**Even our music fixates on the question of time.**

**We sing about how “time goes on,” and at the same time lament that “time has stood still since we’ve been apart.”**

**The hit song that brought Cher out of a 15 year drought was, “If I could turn back time.”**

---

**The Bible also says that life for the human being is linear—it begins with our birth and ends (on this world) with our death.**

**It is not circular like reincarnationists believe—you don’t die to be reborn as someone or something else in a continual circle of death and rebirth.**

**The Bible says, “...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27 NKJV).**

**Time is irretrievable—The Bible teaches that time is like a dollar bill, you can spend it any way you like, but once you spend it you can never get it back.**

**And how you spend your time reveals the level of wisdom you've accumulated.**

**The wise person understands, "With every passing second I am one second closer to my appointment with God, Who will ask me, "What did you do with the time I gave you?"**

**From the Bible's point of view, *time is a gift from God that provides us the opportunity to do His will.***

---

**So, since time is so important, what does "redeem the time" mean?**

**It means we're to rescue it from being wasted, we're to use it wisely for God's purposes, making the most of every opportunity He gives us.**

**ILLUS: I remember vividly watching a show on TV where a select number of women were taken to a grocery store, given their own cart, and told that whatever they could put in it in 3 minutes time was theirs to keep!**

**It was hilarious pandemonium as they “redeemed the time by making the most of the opportunity!”**

---

**My point is that this is the way we should eagerly seize the opportunities God brings our way.**

**Because seasons don’t last.**

**Doors don’t stay open forever.**

**Seasons change. People change. We change.**

**What you can do today you may not be able to do tomorrow.**

**When God says, “Here’s an opportunity, an open door for you to walk through,” we’re to walk through it and grab that divine assignment!**

---

**Now, the Bible is not talking here about living selfishly or seizing opportunities just to gratify our own fleshly desires.**

**No, it’s first talking about the opportunities God brings our way to live for Him,  
make a mark for Him,  
bring glory to Him,**

**bear fruit for Him,  
influence others for Him  
to make our lives count for Him in the brief time we have on  
this planet!**

**This is why David prayed, "Teach us to number our days and  
recognize how few they are; help us to spend them (wisely) as  
we should" (Ps. 90:12 LB).**

**For instance, Paul testified, "For a wide door for effective  
*service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries" (1  
Cor. 16:9 NASB).**

**That's one kind of opportunity the Bible is talking about  
redeeming—a door for effective service for the Lord has  
opened!**

**For instance, the writer of Hebrews wrote to the church, "For  
though by this time you ought to be teachers [because of the  
time you have had to learn these truths], you actually need  
someone to teach you again the elementary principles of God's  
word" (Heb. 5:12 Amp).**

**He's telling them they're behind the game, they're missing  
their season of opportunity to teach, to reach, to influence  
others with the Word of God!**

**They should be teaching by now, seizing the season, but they're lagging behind.**

---

**And there's also God-given seasons to invest in the relationships God has placed in our lives.**

**Solomon wrote, "There is a time to embrace...a time to heal...a time to love..."**

**Those are relational words!**

**For instance, those little children gathering around your feet today will grow faster than a weed.**

**The laughter and playtime filling your house today will soon turn to school, outside activities, and goodbyes tomorrow, when they leave the nest.**

**You have now, today, to pour into them, spend time with them, hold them and influence them.**

**You have today to forgive that person, call that person, visit that person, pray for that person, reach out to that person.**

**God has given us the gift of time to use it wisely!**

***For everything in our lives there is a season, and a time for every one of the purposes God has ordained for us.***

***And we're to seize the season while it's there!***

---

**And no doubt about it, the number one reason God gives us time is that we might be saved by turning to Christ!**

**“He isn't really being slow about his promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. But he is waiting, for the good reason that he is not willing that any should perish, and he is giving more time for sinners to repent” (2 Pet. 3:9).**

---

**Is there an opportunity God is opening to you and you've been slow to respond?**

**Has the Lord prompted you to do something and you've procrastinated?**

**And have you been putting off God's call to repentance?**

**LET'S PRAY!**

