

## TIME

TEXT: (Ephesians 5:15-17, NLT)

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

### INTRODUCTION

1. "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16, NASB).
2. "Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!" (Ephesians 5:11-16, MSG).

### I. TIME—A GIFT FROM GOD

#### A. Entrusted with His Gift

1. "So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures" (James 1:16-18, MSG).
2. "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ" (Romans 10:17, NIV).
3. "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability" (Matthew 25:15, NIV).
4. "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'  
"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness'" (Matthew 25:22-23, NIV)!
5. "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'  
"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.  
"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:24-30, NIV).

#### B. Make the Best Use of Your Time

1. "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16, NASB).

#### C. Numbering Our Days

1. "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV).
2. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time" (Ephesians 5:15-16, KJV).

## II. FOUR PRINCIPLES OF TIME MANAGEMENT

### A. Analyze How You Live

1. "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21, NIV).
2. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5, NIV)
3. "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, NIV).

### B. Prioritize Your List

1. "Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days" (Ephesians 5:16, NLT).
2. "Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do" (Ephesians 5:17, NLT).
3. "Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants" (Ephesians 5:17, MSG).
4. "You have been faithful with a few things (on earth); I will put you in charge of many things (in heaven). Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 5:25:21, NIV).

### C. Commit to Working the List of Priorities

1. "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, NLT).

## III. CHRISTIAN PRIORITIES

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).

### A. Our Relationship to God:

1. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37-38, NIV).

### B. Relationship to one's spouse:

1. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, ...husbands, love your wives" (Ephesians 5:22,25, KJV).
2. "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them" (Colossians 3:19, NIV).
3. "Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself" (Ephesians 5:28, NIV).

### C. Relationship to Children:

1. "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him" (Psalm 127:3, NIV).

## CONCLUSION

1. "Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days" (Ephesians 5:16, NLT).