

Lesson 37  
Redeeming The Time

**Col 4:5**

Every day we live in these mortal bodies we are presented with an opportunity to choose to continue our pursuit of foolishness and vanity or to pursue eternal wisdom. How do you discern between things that are vain & foolishness VS those things that qualify as eternal wisdom?

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

In this passage, Paul exhorts his readers in general, to embrace every opportunity to glorify God, to make wise use of their allotted time and to do good to others.

**I. Walk In Wisdom: Remember Whom You Serve**

- a. Act wisely and prudently in relation to them who are **without**- those who are unbelievers.
- b. Remember that you **represent**, serve, and are accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ. Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. KJV
- c. It is His name and His reputation that is **diminished** when you walk unwisely. 2 Sam 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme.... KJV
- d. It is His **character** that is besmirched by your shortcomings.
- e. It is His **holiness** that is offended by your sinful lapses.
- f. It is His **Truth** that is made of none-effect by your lies.
- g. Therefore: conduct yourself uprightly and honestly with those outside so that they **may not** have occasion to reproach the religion which you profess and the God that you serve.

**II. Remember: You Are Judged By Those Outside**

- a. People of the world judge your religion, not from your profession, but from the **life you live** before them.
- b. They judge your religion, not from preaching, or from books, or from the conduct of its Founder and his apostles, but from what **they see** in your daily walk and manner of life.
- c. They understand the nature of religion to the extent that they know when you are or are not **consistent** with your profession.
- d. Those outside set a much higher value on honesty and integrity than they do on the **doctrines and duties** of religion.
- e. If the believer proves to be lacking in the principles of truth and honesty, those outside think the believer has **nothing** of any value to offer.
- f. Most believers would not attempt to evangelize others when their own lives are not upright. Their own guilt and shame will keep them bound to evangelistic **inactivity**.

Jonah 1:10 10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. KJV

**III. Redeeming The Time**

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- a. **Buying up** those moments which others seem to throw away; steadily improving every present moment, that you may, in some measure, regain the time you have lost.
- b. Time is the chief commodity that you have. It is your **preparation** period for the eternal kingdom of God. Rom 13:11-14;

Rom 13:11-14 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

NIV

- c. Our time is a **talent** given us by God for some good end, and it is misspent and squandered when it is not employed according to His design. Matt 25:13-15

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. 14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matt 25:24-27 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. KJV

- d. The times in which we live are evil and there are many **allurements** and temptations that would lead us away from the wise use of time. Eph 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. NIV
- e. We easily become **distracted** by the things of this world that draw us into sin and away from the things of eternal value. 1 John 2:15-17 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. KJV
- f. We are tempted with sinful and foolish **indulgences** that are a waste of our allotted time. Ps 90:12

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. KJV

- g. We have just enough time given us to accomplish all the purposes which God designs, and God has not given us any more than **enough**.
- h. **Wise** and productive uses of time

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1. Gaining **eternal** knowledge.
  2. Doing **good** to others.
  3. Growth in our **appreciation** for, and valuing the things of God.
  4. Prayer and self-examination to **renew the mind** and adjust the life.
  5. Seeking our personal **sanctification**, and in endeavoring to do the will of God.
- i. Examples of worldly **influences** which tend to waste the time we have been given:
1. There are countless allurements to indulge ourselves in sensual **pleasure**.
  2. We face a multitude of earthly **distractions** which would consume precious hours but would serve no valuable purpose.
  3. We are surrounded by temptations of worldly ambition and **acquisitiveness** which when gained, we realize, is not worth the effort.

**IV. Application**

Be ye not unwise. The command is to stop that which is already in progress - stop becoming foolish; start becoming wise. Proverbs 8:1-11

Prov 8:1-21 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

- a. To what extent do others who are outside see and believe your profession of faith in Christ.
- b. To what extent are you investing your life's resources in the pursuit of vanity and foolishness.
- c. To what extent are you investing your life's resources in things that qualify as eternal wisdom.
- d. What do you need to do to improve the ratio of the wise use of your time?

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- f. Most believers would not attempt to evangelize others when their own lives are not upright. Their own guilt and shame will keep them bound to evangelistic \_\_\_\_\_ Jonah 1:10

**III. Redeeming The Time**

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- g. We have just enough time given us to accomplish all the purposes which God designs, and God has not given us any more than \_\_\_\_\_.
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**IV. Application**

Be ye not unwise. The command is to stop that which is already in progress - stop becoming foolish; start becoming wise. Compare with Proverbs 8:1-11

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