

REDEEMING THE TIME

During the month of November, we will study five problem-solving doctrines for the Christian Way of Life (CWL). Each lesson will take a specific biblical doctrine and show how it resolves a specific spiritual problem.

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- **Lord's Wisdom** (Eph.5:15) **“Therefore, be** (blepo / p.a.impv.2pl) [command to pay attention to common sense illustration] **careful** (akribos) [accuracy as result of carefulness] **how** (pos) [interrogative conjunction] **you walk** (peripateo / p.a.ind 2pl) [all of one's activities of life], **not as** (hos) [comparative particle] **unwise** (asophos), **but as** [comparative contrast] **wise** (sophos).”
- **Lord's Warning** (Eph.5:16) **“Making the most of** (exagorazo / p.m.ptc nplm) [reflective middle / to buy out of the market place] **redeeming your time** (ton Kairos) [time related to God's clock and calendar], **because** (hoti) **the days are evil** (poneros).”
- **Lord's Will** (Eph.5:17) **“So then** (dia+acc touto) [because of this / anaphoric of 'the because' hoti in Eph.5:16 (days of time are evil) **do not be** (me ginomai / p.m.impv.2pl) [command to stop! **foolish** (aphron) [without doctrinal rationale or spiritual common sense], **but** [alla of contrast] **understand** (suniemi / p.a.impv.2pl) [command to start thinking with doctrinal rationale!] **what the will** (to thelema) **of the Lord is** (eimi / p.a.ind 3pl).”

We may have other times but never the moment that has pasted. “This is what Abraham Lincoln meant when he said that time is precious because it is the stuff of which life is made.” (Renaissance of NT, pg.331)

Based on what we have studied so far, what spiritual problem does Redeeming the Time resolve?

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Redeeming the Time and how it resolves the believer wasting his time related to the plan of God while on earth

1. **The church age believer is commanded to live on a 7 day 24 hour alert schedule in the devil's world (1 Cor.3:18-19; 2 Cor.4:3-4).**

“Be on the alert (gregoreo / p.a.impv.2pl) [command to be watchful as a sentry on duty], **stand firm in the faith, act like men be strong.**” (1 Cor.16:13)

“Be on the alert (gregoreo / a.a.impv.2pl) **then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.**” (Matt.25:13)

This same Greek word is used in 1Pet.5:8 – “Be of sober (nephe / a.a.impv.2pl) spirit, **be on the alert** (gregoreo / a.a.impv.2pl). Your adversary, the devil (diabolos), prowls (peripateo / p.a.ind) about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

We know **why** we are to redeem the time according to Eph.5:16. The question is **how**?

2. The spiritual advancing believer is instructed to live in the NOW (moments) of each hour of each day.

“And this do, knowing the TIME, that it is already the HOUR for you to awaken from sleep; for NOW salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. **Let us** therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. **Let us** behave properly as in the DAY, **not in** carousing and drunkenness, **not in** sexual promiscuity and sensuality, **not in** strife and jealousy.” (Rom.13:11-13)

“For He says, ‘At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you’; behold, now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold now is ‘the day of salvation.’” (2 Cor.6:2)

Every person is given the same gift of 7 days of 24 hours each. The day of salvation sets our watches on God’s time. “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil.1:6)

The day of Christ Jesus (Second Coming) gets nearer with each passing moment and with each tick of the clock. “It is nearer than when we believed.” We are to live in each second of each hour of each day.

“For each minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

3. Our example is Jesus Christ who lived a consistent (7 / 24) life on earth based on God’s timetable.

“**My hour** has not yet come.” (John 2:4) He was oriented to living on the imminence of God’s time table.

“They were seeking therefore to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because **His hour** had not yet come.” (John 7:30) He understood that God was also oriented to His timetable.

“And Jesus answered them saying, “**The hour** has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” (John 12:23) Jesus was oriented to living in the seconds of the minutes of each hour in the plan of God.

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from **this hour**?’ but for this purpose I came to **this hour**.” (John 12:27) His orientation to God’s timetable to earth and heaven gave meaning to the purpose of His life.

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that **His hour** had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” (John 13:1) Jesus’ orientation to the character of God and His perfect plan made enduring the scorn and shame of the cross possible. (Heb.12:2)

4. It is important that the spiritual advancing believer not squander his time in the plan of God while on earth.

One way to squander time is carnality - “So as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” (1 Pet.4:2; Rom.13:13-14)

Another way to squander time is spiritual apathy – “And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.” (Rom.13:11; Eph.5:14-17; Heb.10:23-25)

It is essential for the believer to AWAKEN to the priority of living a 7 / 24 on God’s time. It is important because of the spiritual opportunity within each second of each hour of each day. It is of necessity because of the nearness of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.