

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

APRIL 11, 2021

WORSHIP

Praise Him Forever,
Hope in The
Precious Cross,
Take My Life

WELCOME

How has recent
events around
you challenged or
changed the way
you view and value
time?

WORD

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵ So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father;

Today, we are going to tackle a four-letter word: TIME. As you go about your daily schedule, do you start to worry about all the to-do's piling up in your calendar? Do you start thinking, "I need to be more efficient, to get more done in less time"? Or do you wish you could slow time down and freeze it? Do you wish to go back in time because of the mistakes you've made? Time is such a powerful thing---and many of us are wondering where 2020 went. Maybe you thought that being in quarantine would give us more time, but perhaps all those Zoom meetings "zoomed" us into 2021. As we face today and see the rising cases of disease and death, we realize that life is so fragile and time seems shorter. How do we make every day count and live a life of no regret given what's going on in our lives?

Ephesians 5:15-20 instructs us exactly how to do this and we are commanded to be careful how we walk by making the most of our time (**v.15-16**). Earlier in the chapter, Paul tells the Ephesians to "live a life of love" (**Ephesians 5:1**) because they were "children of the light" (**Ephesians 5:8**). Here we see that we do not "do" to become; we become (children of the light) in Jesus to do (walking carefully, wisely). Doing is evidence of a changed life! Moses asks God to "teach us the number of our days that we may present (to God) a heart of wisdom" (**Psalms 90:12**). Knowing the days we have in this world helps us to live our lives by making the most of our **T.I.M.E.**:

TREASURE TIME

The wise value time. Ask yourself, what do you lose time on? Are you a gamer, social media-er, Netflix-er, Lazada-er, K-Drama-er? To make the most of our time is to **redeem** (Gk: exagorazo) **time** (Gk. kairos). You are purchasing out of slavery the fleeting opportunities that you are presented with. Redeeming the time means you make the most of time. Why do we redeem time? Because "the days are evil" (**vv15-16**). God uses the pandemic for good but because of sin, the days are evil—just look at the suffering around you. There's corruption in the world. Why do we redeem the time? Because we are children of the light, we redeem time in the darkness.

INVEST OUR TIME

We can only invest time. We can't make more of it; we can't save any of it. But we can waste it (a very bad investment) so let's invest it wisely. There's a bank for us called TIME which has 86,400 seconds that disappear at midnight each day. Either we use it or lose it, or as A.W. Tozer eloquently puts it: "Time is a resource that is nonrenewable and nontransferable. You cannot store it, slow it up, hold it up, divide it up or give it up. You can't hoard it up or save it for a rainy day—when it's lost its unrecoverable. When you kill time, remember that it has no resurrection."

Ephesians 5:17 says that the wise thing to do with time is to understand what the Lord's will is. **Deuteronomy 4:5-6** tells us to do what God wants us to do and we learn what God wants through studying His Word. The Bible sheds just enough light to show us the next step ahead of us. **Psalms 119:105** says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". Yet it is not sunlight that will show us our whole life ahead of us. God tells us, "I will tell you enough of what you need to do" and it's going to be like a path we can follow one day at a time. His Word will guide us one step at a time. Yesterday you cannot change, tomorrow hasn't come but today God has told you enough of what you need to do.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

APRIL 11, 2021

WORD

MANAGE PRIORITIES

Even if we are on lockdown, we have too much to do; the world has made us busy! We have to manage priorities. We need to identify our “big rocks” that we have to prioritize our time around. What should we prioritize each day? God, family, health, work, ministry, friends and hobbies, last. An equally important question to ask to help us manage priorities is, “whose priorities are you focused on?”. **Matthew 6:33** commands us to put God’s priorities first; He is not saying though that we should not work anymore but that God’s kingdom should be first in our agenda each day. As one young woman who loved Jesus wrote in her journal shortly before she passed away, we must tread lightly on this earth because we are simply pilgrims (travellers) in this life—focus on the (heavenly) Kingdom that is to come; not on either pleasure or pain on this earth.

Colossians 3:17 tells us that you can have the most menial job in the world, and yet do it in the most God-glorifying way. Moms who are homeschooling, dads who take time to be with their children after a tiring day at work, even those who use their downtime to fellowship with friends on weekends—what you do can be your big rock for eternity if you do it all for the Lord. Often, you have to say “no” to say “yes” to God. As our senior pastor wisely puts it: “I have enough time to do what God wants me to do. I won’t have enough time to do what God wants me to do and (everything) I want to do. I won’t have enough time to do what God wants me to do and everything others want me to do.” Know God’s Word so you will know what the best things are to say yes to. Invest time in what will matter for eternity.

ENTRUST ALL THINGS

Unlike the Avengers movie “Infinity War”, we do not have a “time stone” that shows us the one best life for us. But we have something better—we have a God who does not only see 14,000,605 possibilities. We have a God who sits outside of time and tells us that there is a way to live the best life you can live from this day forward! He tells us that we must entrust our lives to Him. **Ephesians 5:18-20** shows us how we live wisely; to live in the Spirit. Living in the Spirit results in a life of worship (**v.18**)—with others, and within my own life (**v.19**), resulting in a grateful heart (**v.20**). When we treasure time, invest time wisely, manage our priorities and entrust all things to God, He helps us to redeem our time; even the time you lost. Have you ever felt that you wasted your time? **Joel 2:12-13, 25** shows us that when we return to the Lord from our hearts, He will make up to us the years that we have lost. This is because our God is gracious, compassionate, not easily angered and full of love for us. Ask Him in repentance and humility, “will you make a miracle and make up for the time I have lost?”. Some of you may not have lost years but you lost things—there is pain and sadness. Whatever your regrets are, God can make up for it. He has eternity to do it so even if some of you may not see the restoration you long for on earth, don’t despair because God is always true to His word, He is faithful. In the Avengers movie “End Game”, Iron Man sacrificed himself because he knew from Dr. Strange’s vision that it was the only way to save the world. We have somebody better than the fictional Tony Stark; Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us, it was the only one way from every other way that the world can be redeemed (**John 3:16**). Jesus redeemed us, so as **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, commands us, let honor God with the life we live in this earthly body. Let us make the most of our **TIME** for the Lord!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What are the time wasters that you need to spend less time on?

2. Setting It Right

What are the important things that you need to invest more time in?

3. Living It Out

What do you commit to do each day to remind yourself to live a Spirit-filled life and entrust your time to God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for all those you know who are battling COVID 19. Include their families and healthcare workers too. Pray that in their suffering, they will acknowledge that Jesus holds all of time and eternity in His hands; pray that they will turn over their lives to Him. Pray with them on the phone and let them know they are not alone. Give practical help whenever you can. Take time to share the gospel of Christ that will surely bring healing to their souls.

WEEKLY

PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



¹⁵ Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16