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It's About Time



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Reviewed by: Dr. Lambert Duncan

It's About Time

“Money I can gain or lose. But time I can only lose. So, I must spend it carefully.”

(Author Unknown)

Psalm 90:12 (NIV) *“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*

Ephesians 5:16 (Amplified) *“Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.”*

A rich man and a poor man were comparing the things of value each of them had acquired in their lives. The rich man went on and on about his fine cars, his expensive home and pleasure materials he owned. However, the poor man had acquired nothing of significant value and had only life's essentials to claim for his possessions. He had a rundown house in a bad neighborhood; he had no car or pleasure materials to boast of. The poor man in his wisdom said to the rich man, *“After comparing what each of us have, I realized I'm not your equal in terms of acquired possessions. However, there is one thing that I have that is equal to what you have; in fact, I have exactly the same amount as you.”* The rich man asked, *“Now what might that be?”* The poor man said, *“Time. Although you have been able to acquire many things in your life because of your wealth, there is one thing you could not buy and that's time. You see, we both get an equal amount of time each day we live to use as we please.”* The poor man in this story points out that wealth, like age, race, creed, color or religion has no bearing on the amount of time we are all given by God each day. Each day we live, we all get **24 hours, 1,440 minutes and 86,400 seconds**. Nobody gets any more than the next person. There are a few important facts we should keep in mind regarding our time:

- 1) Everyone has the same amount for today.
- 2) You can't save any of your time for a rainy day, you can only invest it.
- 3) If you don't use it, you lose it forever.
- 4) You can't borrow any from tomorrow.
- 5) You can't sell or buy any.
- 6) Each day starts fresh, no time is carried over from the previous day.
- 7) Once it's used it's gone forever, there are no refunds.

To all of us, God the giver and creator of time, gives 168 hours per week. The average person will spend about 56 of those hours sleeping, about 24 of those hours on eating and personal hygiene,

about 50 of those hours working and traveling to and from work. If you do the math, that leaves about 38 hours of time left out of your week to do the things most important to us. This means we have about **5.42** hours each day to do those things most important to us.

The question is, which things are most important to you? If someone were to follow us around and observe us for those remaining 5.42 hours we have each day, they would be able to tell which things are most important to us. Like fingerprints, no two people are the same. We may have similarities but the truth is we are all unique in the sense that we have different ways of using our time. Here are some examples of how some use their 5.42 hours left over each day:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Playing video games | 5) Using the phone |
| 2) Watching movies | 6) Hobbies |
| 3) Exercising | 7) Reading |
| 4) Getting a little more sleep | 8) Shopping (not food) |

This list could include many other things but I think the point is made; we each spend our 5.42 hours on many different things. However, we all need to take a step back and look at how we spend our 5.42 hours and ask ourselves if these things are wise investments of our time. More importantly, does any of the things we do with our remaining 5.42 hours glorify or include God in any way? Or do we just use our time to satisfy ourselves? As Christians, God expects us to be good stewards with our time and manage it wisely. That said, we must make time each day for prayer, bible reading, family and church work/ministry. These things should be at the top of every Christian's list when he/she is planning their day.

Consider the following. A Time Management expert was teaching a class to executives. To make a clear point to his audience, he placed a large, clear, open-mouthed jar in front of the group. Next, he put seven or eight large rocks into the jar until it was full. ***“Is the jar full?”*** he asked, everyone said ***“yes.”*** Then he took small pebbles and poured them into the jar until they reached the rim. ***“Is the jar full?”*** he asked, no one answered this time. He then took sand and poured it into the jar. He again asked, ***“Is the jar full?”*** Some said yes, while others said nothing. He then proceeded to take a pitcher of water and filled the jar up with it. He then asked his audience, ***“What’s the lesson I’m trying to convey, is it time management?”*** Every one said ***“Yes, this proves that you can always fit more things into your already busy schedule.”*** ***“Wrong,”*** he replied. ***“The lesson is unless you put the big rocks in first, they will never fit into the jar.”***

For the Christian, the **“big rocks”** are the most important things to them. That said, what are the big rocks in your daily life that might be taking up time owed to God? There are three (3) big rocks every Christian should place into their jar of time first:

- 1) **God** – Through prayer and bible reading.
- 2) **Family** – God never told any married Christian to neglect his/her family obligations. Not spending time with our family is the recipe for divorce.
- 3) **Church** – **Hebrews 10:25** tell us, we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. There is no substitute for church attendance, neglect it, you become weak and will eventually fall.

Finally, in general, we should be prayerful and wise with all our time. We should avoid using our time on things that lead nowhere. Here are three examples of how we waste our time:

- 1) **Lengthy dating periods with the same person** – If you're dating someone for more than two years and there are no plans for marriage, you may be wasting your time and your youth on someone that doesn't deserve it. Consider moving on to someone willing to make a commitment.
- 2) **The dead end job** – If there is no room for growth, no marketable skills being acquired, no retirement plan, you may be wasting your time. Consider taking some classes or training then look for a better job.
- 3) **The dead end church** – Church is more than just a feel good experience. If you're part of a church that has no room for your spiritual growth and development into a more usable vessel for God, you might be wasting your time. You should talk with your Pastor to see what he/she has planned for you. Never waste your time, youth and gifting warming someone's pew. There is no Christian saved just to be a number in the pews. Every Christian has a gift that he/she is required by God to use for the edifying of the church.

So remember this, the most valuable thing you have is not your home, car or bank account, it's your time. If a house burns down to the ground you can rebuild it, if you wreck your car, you can get another one, if you spend or lose all your money, you can make it back again, it may be difficult, but it's not impossible. However, your time, once it's gone, it's gone forever, and you cannot buy it back. We are to number our days while living here (**Psalm 90:12**). That is to say, we are to consider how few they are and how little time we really have.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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