

## MAKING THE BEST USE OF YOUR TIME

### Ephesians 5:1-16

**Introduction:** Every Christian knows that he/she has a lot of things that go wrong on the "inside" from time to time for nobody is perfect down here, also there are temptations surrounding him/her and so he/she has to be on his/her guard every minute to keep from falling into more sin. Paul knew that it was difficult to live a Christian life and one should and he addressed that problem in this text.

#### I. IT IS THE DUTY OF A CHRISTIAN TO DO HIS/HER BEST TO LIVE A RESPECTFUL LIFE

1. Christians are people who have received the "light" and should walk in it, not like those who continue to walk in "darkness." (*John 12:35*).
  - Those who walk in the "light" can see how and where to place their feet with accuracy and exactness as Christians have the light of God's Word (*vv 8, 13-14*), and should carefully avoid setting his/her foot in a "place" where he/she might slip (into sin).
2. As people who are afraid of doing wrong, Christians are ever in danger of being led astray by the example of those around them.
  - If anybody should presume to promote what is contrary to the Word of God, Christians should **"take care not to be deceived.."** and instead of joining in with them, should **"avoid all fellowship with their unfruitful works..."**
  - Instead of joining with them, Christians should **"reprove them..."** (*vv6, 7, 11*)
3. As people anxious to please God, then neither the opinions of others nor selfish interests are to regulate the Christian's conduct.
  - There is but one inquiry to make - "Will that please my Lord?" That view, that desire, that purpose must be the base of one's actions whether in public or in private (*vv10, 17*).
  - With a view/intention to approve one's self before the Lord, one should carefully inspect his/her motives and principles as if Jesus were actually present in the flesh and His eyes fixed upon our hearts.

#### II. HOW A CHRISTIAN USES HIS/HER TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT

1. It is really a sad and bad thing to realize how much time is lost because of just not planning, just not taking precautions, just not realizing how easily time can be wasted on empty, useless, things.
  - Very few are good economists of time even in relation to their favorite interests.
  - Even worse is the slackness of Christians to eternal interests and let thousands of opportunities pass by them, unrecognized.
    - Many non Christians have passed through most of their life and not yet begun to seek the salvation of their souls.
  - How many Christians have a very lot spiritual interest and are not even impressed with a sense of its value?
  - **"...When for the time they ought to be qualified for teachers, they still need to be taught the first principles of the oracles of God..."** (*Hebrews 5:12*)
2. Christians should consider what it is that has robbed them of their time and then guard against it.
  - Pleasure allures with its charms.
  - Business occupies one's time.

- Visiting, having company can be the strongest misuse of one's time.
  - All these things should be watched carefully and one should set him/herself against allowing such things to dominate his/her life.
3. Time is short, little enough for the concerns of one's soul and therefore one should allow as little of it as possible to be wasted or to pass off in unproductivity for the Lord Jesus.

### III. MOTIVES FOR CHRISTIANS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THEIR TIME

1. Proper use of one's time, using one's time as best as possible for the Lord is proof of WISDOM (*v15*).
  - There is no greater foolishness than for Christians to be thoughtless, unconcerned for their eternal interests and to trifle away that time which they ought to be employing in the concerns of their souls and the souls of others.
2. Using one's time as best as he/she can for the Lord is also the SAFEST.
  - The days of the early Church were indeed evil with persecutions and such and every person felt that his/her "comforts" could be taken away at any moment therefore the early Christians lived their days in fear yet continued to live their lives for the Lord Jesus.
  - Today is much different and the most Christians might suffer in this country might be a little contempt shown by non believers and the loss of some temporal interests, yet today's days can still be called "evil" days because Satan is still actively against God's Church.
  - *"...Iniquity abounds and therefore there is danger lest the love many should wax cold..."*
3. If Christians (we) want to not be drawn into the center of corruption, we should work at keeping at a distance from it by watching the use of our time and living as much like the Lord Jesus as we can.

### CONCLUSION:

1. In a way Christians are just like anybody else with likes, dislikes, routines, habits, preferences, friends, jobs, hobbies but on the other hand Christians are not like everybody else as they have a different lifestyle they are to live - that like unto the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Life can control a person but Christians should control their lives and watch how they live and avoid things that would/could cause them to not live like the Lord.
3. The Christian must make the very best use of his/her time and in doing that, he/she must pay attention to what tries to take control of his/her time, interests, etc.
4. Christian, are YOU really in control of your life, your time? Or are you under its control?