

July 3rd 2011 Practical Christianity #5 "Time:The Most Valuable Resource We Have." James 4:13-17

... **when God created**...made them for fellowship..**He** also entrusted....care control of.....with all its resources and....and the task of glorifying....thru works, achievements, lifestyle and worship.... To do all this.. He gave..time

Time like a package made up...of... that would finally lead...to THAT DAY when each indiv...give account of how....used TIME to fulfill...purposes for

Time—The most valuable resource that we have.

It was Moses who...9salm 90:12 ***Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.***

CEV translates as: ***Teach us to use wisely all the time we have.***

Time is one of...we tend to value diff...the longer...As a child...I would yearn so...could do this thing or...I felt....over abundance of time. Then.. in my when life....full of boundless opportunities...just accepted....ample time.. to explore....there was no urgency....because time.... was there for me.

But as the years....look at time...differently... I see....a valuable commodity worth more than....that is gradually going...top to...of the hourglass...

I believe that James also...this high view of...is what lies behind...tough... in James 4:13-17. Consider again what he writes in v13-14.

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Peterson paraphrases*And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that."*

James complaint is not....their planning... The Bible encourages....sees it as t But what James is cross... is their failure to ackn as believers...acceptance of fact that their days...in Gods....plans they make....always open...Gods adjust

The non....doesn't see his....as given him by...to use well....He sees time as his right....whether...uses it to help...or to increase...or for...own pleasure.

He has this presumption....time is there for him... to use...plans &purposes gets extremely upset if....But the believ attitude...be seen as diff...because

We know that...belong to ...that he has first call....So we make our plans... but always...witness to others...One who is ultimately in charge... plans... and indeed.... our length is our God—and we are glad about that.

This becomes... our greatest witness to....when our....plans go down.... If.... way we react...things we say...support our belief...God is in charge of all and will even use this.... Good...our faith shines...thro...dark...& our trust.... in seen as holding firm.

So James is here instructing...about...need to live out before...the truth that the One... who is ultimately in control of...and our plans... is God and not us.

Consequently....should avoid boasting....about....aiming to do or achieve... because....we are simply servants of...here to do His bidding... Rather like Jobwho when all his plans fell in a heap...simply said: Job 1:21

**"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.**

**The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised."**

But that is not all that James has to say about time. Look at v17:-

¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

This statement...if we don't use time...to do the good...then that's a problem.

Now there are times... when we know...God wants us...but we don't do.... because we....disobedient, stubborn.... or just don't want to.

But mainly....some good....we don't...because....never get around...We keep putting...until we run out of....We procrastinate...all know Procrastination.... A lady by the name of Gloria Pitzer has written this clever little poem:

***Procrastination is my sin
It brings me naught but sorrow.
I know that I should stop it
In fact, I will...tomorrow.***

Are you a procrastinator?.... Some....more so than...and often their.... seemsreasonably harmless.... Such....not the case...story of the farm.. accidentally overturned....A farmer who lived nearby came to investigate. "Hey, Willis,"...."forget your troubles for a spell...come on.... have dinner Then I'll help you get the wagon up."

"That's mighty nice of you," Willis..."But I don't think Pa would like me to."

"Aw, come on, son!" the farmer insisted.

"Well, okay," the boy finally agreed. "But Pa won't like it."

After a hearty dinner, Willis thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I just know Pa is going to be real upset."

"Don't be foolish!" exclaimed the neighbor. "By the way, where is he?"

"Under the wagon.".

Procrastination can be...harmful to others....oneself...and partic...the case comes to the good....God wants us to do....Esp receiving Jesus as Saviour That's something...no one can afford to procras about....Yet many do

And perhaps...applies to you....You know...need to make a commitment.... That He died....been calling....He waits to give...forgiveness and the power and yet...do nothing.... You are as ready today as you will ever be....

Or maybe...not your problem.... You already know....and may have walked yet in your heart....know....things you could do... that you are not doing. Acts....laid on your.....and you....replied to Almighty...not yet—later... But...

Baptism is.... just put off....They know... a good thing.....but ... just don't... All kinds of ministries... come to mind where...had people say...well I intendone day.... or, let me think about it for a while.

Serena is presently doing a new roster. The opportunity to be involved in ministries is here for you this morning. Will you do something about it or just put it off again.

Someone once said: **"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."**

I read about a lady called Clare Boothe Luce, who at 75 was asked, "Do you have any regrets?" She answered, "Yes, I should have been a better person. Kinder. More tolerant. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night, and I remember a girlhood friend of mine who had a brain tumour and called me three times to come and see her. I was always too busy, and when she died, I was profoundly ashamed. I still remember that after 56 years."

Procrastination. It not only robs us of the joy of being obedient to God's call upon us, but it also leaves us with the pain of regret and the sadness associated with what could have been.

James said: **Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.**

As one Pastor put it:

This day a preacher will preach his last sermon, but he does not know it. Church members, youth and adult, will attend their last worship service, but they do not know it. Tomorrow will be the last day some businessmen will set foot in their workplace. Some child has enjoyed his last Saturday morning playtime with the neighborhood kids. A disaster, a tragedy, a natural phenomenon will happen today, tomorrow, the next week that will change the lives and futures of hundreds of people.

We live as though none of these things will ever happen to us. Yet there was no exception clause in James' statement: **"You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow."** You may be playing loosely with your

spiritual life; gambling that you will have plenty of time to hear the gospel and respond to it. But your future, as mine, is uncertain.

Let us, as God's people, value time as the wonderful resource it is and use it wisely, conscious that it is given us by God. Let us also make sure that we take time to rest, time to love, time to serve, time to work, time to help others, and especially time to pray and time to worship.

