

“STEWARDING YOUR TIME” (Part 2)

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Reminder: In this series, we are placing a special emphasis on *service* and *responsibility*—**our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.**

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

† **Stewarding Your Time**

Introduction: So, in light of the new year that is upon us; in light of the blank pages of chapter 2017, let us consider our stewardship of time.

Q: How do you steward your time?

Keeping in mind that every **moment** is a gift from God:

- *Wasting* time – failing to use it or squandering it in idleness and on our own *pleasures*.
- *Spending* our time – using it for our own *purposes*.
- *Investing* our time – using it for God’s *purposes* and *pleasures*.

I. Stewarding Life’s Principles (v. 15)

Our stewardship of *life’s principles* is living by God’s designed principles. It is allowing God to lead us, thus orchestrating the events of our lives.

The idea here to a **balanced walk**. It is vital that we learn to walk carefully, purposefully around the dangerous, evil areas of life.

When we “*walk in wisdom*” we live according to God’s standard of living.

II. Stewarding Your Limited Privileges (v. 16)

A. Our time is _____

“Redeeming the time, ...” – “Redeeming the time” is being aware of brevity of life and our need to use our time wisely—efficiently and effectively.

1 Corinthians 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short: ...

Cf. Psalm 39:4-5

1. A Warning against _____ (James 4:13-14)

The problem is that this man is living as a practical atheist. He is living his life as if God doesn't exist.

Luke 12:15 And **He** said unto them, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth [*is*] not [*defined by*] in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

a. he failed to defined success Biblically (Luke 12:16-17)

b. he failed to discern between the temporal and eternal (Luke 12:19)

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure [what you value most] is, there will your heart be also.

2. A Wise _____ (James 4:15)

Instead of *presumptuous* living, James calls for *prudent* living. He calls for us to consider Christ as we go through this life.

Q: How few are the days that I have on this earth? How much time do I give to Godly living? How much time to I spend on selfish living?

B. Our time is a _____

“Redeeming the time” (v. 16) – The Greek word that is translated, “time” is not the word “*chronos*,” which speaks of the sequence of moments such as a clock or calendar. The Greek word used here is “*kairos*,” which speaks of **moments** or **opportunities**.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

It is in wisdom that we see our time as a privilege.

It is vital to live purposefully. Someone once said, “If we fail to plan then we plan to fail.”

C. Our time is a _____

“...because the days are evil.” (v. 16) – The “*days are evil*” in that there are many hardships and difficulties—this is life. But a large part of the “*evil*” is the temptation to sin. The temptation to waste these opportunities is strong. The temptation to spend these moments for our own purposes is great.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time [*the critical time*] to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

You have been telling the Lord that you are “*going to*” spend time with Him; you are “*going to*” serve Him; you are “*going to*” set a better example, witness...etc. *Then do it!* Redeem the opportunity and make the most of it for God’s glory. **Stop giving into the temptation of “I’m going to”!**

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of **God**, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Paul describes the armor of protection to help us in the evil day of temptation.

Psalm 90:12 So teach *us* to number [*to weigh out / consider*] our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

Please consider answering the “**What is my next step**” questions along with the questions for next Sunday’s message which will be part 2 as we consider the *Lord’s purposes* from v. 17.

 <p>PINE ISLAND BIBLECHURCH</p>	<p>9 Little Brooklyn Rd, Warwick, NY 10990 pastor@PIBCNY.com / www.PIBCNY.com / John Lashuay, Pastor</p>
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