

“STEWARDING YOUR TIME” (Part 1)

Sunday, January 8, 2017

† **Stewarding God’s Missing Gift (Review)**

Last week we started off the New Year by considering our stewardship of God’s *missing* Gift. We considered our stewardship of Christ in this New Year. At times, we can become so busy with life that He becomes the “*missing Gift*.”

Our **goal** is to commit to pursuing a year of faithful stewardship of this greatest Gift.

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**

Q: How do you steward your time?

Keeping in mind that every moment is a gift from God. We have three options with our time:

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

As Christians, our mindset should be the pursuit of Christ as we invest in eternity by **investing** in people. Our almighty God should be our focus. Bringing Him pleasure as we serve our families and friends; as we spend time in ministry for His glory.

I. Stewarding Life’s _____ (v. 15)

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the **Lord**, beseech you that ye walk worthy [*appropriately*] of the vocation [*calling*] wherewith ye are called,

This “*worthy walk*” is living according to divinely set forth life principles.

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.

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

Cf. Psalm 23:1-3

“**See then that ye walk circumspectly, ...**” – Live with your eyes wide open considering your surroundings. This is purposeful living.

Colossians 4:5 – Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

“**...not as fools, but as wise.**” – The “*fool*” lives his own way and does not care about God’s way or anyone else’s.

To be “*wise*” is to be skilled. Wise living is the implementation of divine life principles.

Cf. Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to **Thy** word.

Psalm 119:11 Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against **Thee**.

Proverbs 6:20-24

II. Stewarding Your Limited Privileges (v. 16)

A. Our time is _____

This word, “*time*” speaks of _____.

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

Psalm 39:4 “LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is* [*how short my life really is*]; that I may know how frail I am.

James 4:13-14 Go to now, ye that say, “To day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain [*make a profit*]:” **14** Whereas ye know not what *shall be* [*will happen*] on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

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

B. Our time is a _____

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

C. Our time is a _____

We need to “redeem” these opportunities for God and for His glory.

Proverbs 2:7-9 He layeth up sound **Wisdom** for the righteous: **He** is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. **8** He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of **His** saints. **9** Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

Proverbs 2:10-11 When [*Godly*] wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant [*a delight*] unto thy soul; **11** Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

Proverbs 2:12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Proverbs 2:16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

God’s wisdom brings deliverance from a lifestyle that is ruled by sin—what God calls evil.

Proverbs 2:20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

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.

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