

Redeeming the Time

Introduction

Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

- 1. Definitions: REDEEM: "To buy up, to buy up for one's self, for one's use:...in the obscure phrase, Eph 5:16 and Col 4:5...the meaning seems to be to make a wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well-doing are as it were the purchase-money by which we make the time our own."
- THAYER.**
- 2. Let us redeem the time by:**

The Proper Use of Our Possessions

1. **We do not actually own anything but are stewards of property.**
 - A. **"Belonging to" implies final authority.**
 - B. **In order to have this final authority the owner must get "first title" to what he owns. But,**
 - C. **Man can never do this, as all he has comes from God.**

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- D. **And so the Christian holds that which he possesses as God's, to be used for God.**
- E. **The real Christian looks at everything in life from the viewpoint of God's ownership and man's responsibility.**
- F. **This responsibility is inevitable, and no dutiful Christian will seek to evade it.**

- (1) **As between man and man, the matter is optional.**

ILLUSTRATION: A banker may refuse to loan to you money that belongs to others.

- (2) **As between man and God, everyone, saint and sinner alike, is responsible, because life itself is a trust from God.**

2. Opportunities for "redeeming the time" with our property is temporary.

A. This is evident from the fact that the possessions over which we are stewards are transitory rather than permanent.

(1) One may be in control of much property today, and tomorrow he may lose all by flood, fire, death or some other misfortune.

(2) He may be called for account of his stewardship at the most unexpected moment.

**ILLUSTRATION: The Rich Fool (Read Luke 12:16-21)
(Mentions "I" 6 times!)**

(3) Hence we should always be "redeeming the time" so that we will be ready.

B. We should realize that all of the property that we can really call our own or hold permanently is that which we have given away.

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. Let us also redeem the time by:

The Proper Use of Life

1. Life is a trust. It cannot be purchased; rather it is a loan. It is a charge from the creator of life; it is holy; it is uncertain; it is capable of marvelous usefulness, but equally capable of being marred or utterly spoiled.

A. Jesus was but a babe but look at the good that has come from His life. COMPARE HITLER OR NAPOLEON.

2. Life is not yours to use as you please. It is a priceless privilege from the loving creator to the crowning climax of His creation.

A. All possessions, powers and responsibilities are ours in trust; of them we are stewards. Our use of them determines the degree of faithfulness.

3. Life is ours for management, but is eternally subject to the will of the Divine owner.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

4. Man must come before the great tribunal, and give account of his life.

Romans 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

5. Then let us also redeem the time by:

The Proper Use of Opportunity

- 1. It has been said that opportunities, like meteors, pass quickly. We are nevertheless responsible for them.**
 - A. Past opportunities are seen by the multitudes; approaching or present opportunities are seen only by the alert.**
 - B. Opportunity knocks; if the door is unopened, it passes on. It never travels backward.**
 - C. Opportunity must be anticipated. If it finds us unprepared, it never asks the cause.**
 - (1) It's only question is: "Do you know me; are you ready for my coming?"**
- 2. Then, we should take account of small as well as great opportunities.**
 - A. Life is the addition of single hours, and big opportunities are reached only by the way of small opportunities.**
 - B. Let us not despise small things. The smallest cog in a watch is essential.**
 - (1) The little drops of water eventually wear the great stone away.**
- 3. And last, let us redeem the time by:**

The Proper Use of Our Knowledge of God

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

1Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

1. We must earnestly desire and pray for opportunities and wisdom to make the knowledge of God known.

Colossians 4:3-6 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

2. This responsibility is upon every member of the church.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Conclusion

1. **Let us recognize our responsibility as Christians to make a wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good - so that the TIME MAY BE REDEEMED!**
2. **Which had you rather be at the judgment:**

- A. **Church at Jerusalem.**

Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

- B. **OR - Church at Laodicea.**

Revelation 3:15-17 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

3. **Eternity can be joy and happiness or a constant BURN.**

