

MAKING TIME

Time is the most precious commodity we have. It is the only thing we have that when it runs out, it cannot be topped up. Perhaps surprisingly, we spend more time and energy in every other aspect of life, but we don't preserve the value of time itself... yet, we are ever running out of it. God has offered us eternal time, but this is based on putting our human time aside and developing our spiritual time. That is, we are expected to dedicate our lives and our resources towards the things of God, not the things of our pleasing. This requires sacrifices and value changes... that's what being a Christian is all about. We must be always conscious of how efficiently we use and preserve the time that we have available.

Wake up to the time, the alarm has gone off (it rang when you received the Holy Spirit), it is time to get things done.

EPH 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk **circumspectly** (*diligently and accurately*), not as fools, but as wise, *Fools ignorantly waste time.*

16 Redeeming the time (*neutralising the power that the world demands upon our time*), because the days are evil. *There is so much happening in the world that is opposed to God, it is very easy to get sidetracked and waste precious time.*

17 Wherefore be ye not **unwise** (*without reflection or intelligence*), **but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; *Many try and find comfort in worldly escapes, but the Lord tells us to forget the things which deaden the senses... be filled with the Holy Spirit if you want your time to be pleasant and happy. Many use sport, movies, sex, cars, romance, drugs., etc., to soften the blow of human frailty and mortality.*

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; *Make time for the Lord. Recognising the source and future of your life... give God the recognition he deserves. Enjoy God's life.*

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; *Always remembering.*

Time is not endless... it is running out for all of us.

1COR 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the **time is short**: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; **30** And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; *In essence, we are told that we don't have time to get married, bury the dead, accrue assets etc. God sees the time we have as an essential requirement to complete his plans, not ours.* Luk 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. *We have been called to preach the gospel above every other human need and compassion. The scriptural focus on where our priorities should lay is clear cut. However, God has permitted us to enjoy our human passions, but that doesn't alter his priorities, nor our responsibilities. We need to transfer more of our time and energy towards the gospel... preaching the gospel to be precise.*

31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away. *We all find time to do the things we really want to do... it is up to us to make our priorities, its up to us to put the Lord first. Don't put the things of the world first... it is running out of time. Eternal life is not bound by time... but it needs time to be maintained and understood.*

Loving the Lord and loving each other is a full time requirement.

ROM 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. *Godly love is the most correct and efficient use of time that we know. Dedication of time and energy towards others keeps our entry into eternal time valid.*

11 And that, knowing the **time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. *Make your time work for you, not against you, that's what priorities are all about. Time is running away more and more.*

God is a loving and caring God, but respect and obedience are also essential for love to be understood and mastered.

1PET 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the **time** of your sojourning here in fear: *Our respect for God is measured by the time we are prepared to give him. Our love for God can be measured by the things we give up and the time we make available for preaching and living the gospel.*

Love also requires wisdom and commitment... without sufficient time, love hurts.

2COR 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you (*give you all my time and energy*); though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved. *Paul's insistence on making time for the Lord was a very loving act, but for those who didn't want to grow to their potential and for those who loved the world more than God... his love caused anger and hostility.*

Don't waste your time in the world... its time is limited, almost run out.

HEB 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. *This world is not our home... nor is it our time.*

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. *To sacrifice something, is to give up something which is valuable. We are asked to sacrifice our interests and endeavours.*

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. *God needs your time.*

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. *No matter where our priorities lay, nor what we like most about the Lord or the church, we are commanded to fall into line behind one common goal. You need to be convinced that preaching the gospel truthfully and efficiently is essential. To perform this duty is not easy if you have more important matters to attend to. Read the Word... apply wisdom and knowledge.... maintain a quality prayer life... support your church and family and preach the gospel in faith and hope.*