

**UNDERSTANDING TIME FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**  
**HOW TO REDEEM THE TIME**  
**11-15-20**

I was reading through the Bible and came upon this verse which says:

Revelation 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Revelation 10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

Revelation 10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

According to this passage time is temporal invention of God.

God does not dwell in time. God dwells outside of the limits of time.

What then is time, this invention of God?

God invented time when He said it was morning and evening and the first day.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Somewhere in this first day God started the time clock of time.

Most of the theories of the origins of the universe require exorbitant measures of time, millions and billions of years. Yet it never takes into consideration that time itself is an invention of God. According to the Bible there was a time when there was no time and there will be a time in the future where once again TIME WILL BE NO MORE.

Revelation 10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

**WHAT IS TIME?**

**I. TIME IS A CREATION OF GOD FOR US WHO ARE TEMPORAL MORTAL CREATURES.**

HOW DO THE EXPERTS DEFINE TIME? THERE ARE MANY MANY USES AND DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD.

Here is man's definition of time.

- 1 The continuum of experience in which events pass from the future through the present to the past.
- 2 Rhythm as given by division into parts of equal time, music uses this.
- 3 A person's experience on a particular occasion; "He had a time holding back the tears" or "They had a good time together".
- 4 An instance or single occasion for some event; "This time he succeeded"; "He called four times"; "He could do ten at a clip".
- 5 An indefinite period (usually marked by specific attributes or activities); "He waited a long time"; "The time of year for planting"; "He was a great actor in his time".
- 6 The time as given by a clock; "Do you know what time it is?"; "The time is 10 o'clock".
- 7 The fourth coordinate that is required (along with three spatial dimensions) to specify a physical event.
- 8 The period of time a prisoner is imprisoned; "He served a prison term of 15 months"; "His sentence was 5 to 10 years"; "He is doing time in the county jail".
- 9 A suitable moment; "It is time to go".
- 10 A period of time considered as a resource under your control and sufficient to accomplish something; "Take time to smell the roses"; "I didn't have time to finish"; "It took more than half my time".

Webster:

1. Duration, considered independently of any system of measurement or any employment of terms which designate limited portions thereof.

The time wasteth i. e. passes away night and day.  
--Chaucer.

I know of no ideas . . . that have a better claim to be accounted simple and original than those of space and time.  
--Reid.

2. A particular period or part of duration, whether past, present, or future; a point or portion of duration; as, the time was, or has been; the time is, or will be.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

--Heb. i. 1.

3. The period at which any definite event occurred, or person lived; age; period; era; as, the Spanish Armada was destroyed in the time of Queen Elizabeth; -- often in the plural; as, ancient times; modern times.

4. The duration of one's life; the hours and days which a person has at his disposal.

Believe me, your time is not your own; it belongs to God, to religion, to mankind. --Buckminster.

5. A proper time; a season; an opportunity.

There is . . . a time to every purpose. --Eccl. iii.

1. The time of figs was not yet. --Mark xi. 13.

6. Hour of travail, delivery, or parturition.

She was within one month of her time. --Clarendon.

7. Performance or occurrence of an action or event, considered with reference to repetition; addition of a number to itself; repetition; as, to double cloth four times; four times four, or sixteen.

Summers three times eight save one. --Milton.

8. The present life; existence in this world as contrasted with immortal life; definite, as contrasted with infinite, duration.

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Time is only for men, it is not for God. We are limited by this creation of God called time . However, God is not limited to time and dwells not in time.

***I. GOD IS NOT RESTRICTED BY TIME NOR IS HE RULED BY TIME  
TIME LIMITS US AND RESTRICTS US.***

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalms 90:5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

Psalms 90:6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

God is not restricted by time nor does He change with time, nor does He grow old, nor does time wear on Him, etc.

Since He is the creator of time, He is not under the constraints of time but He rules time. Time does not rule Him.

God can accomplish in a moment what we think should take a million years. Hence scientist will never understand the creation.

God can take a thousand years to do what we think should have been done today. Hence men mock God for delaying His promises.

God is not constrained by time. God is not ruled by time. God is not limited by time. God has all the time to accomplish what He wills, But God can accomplish what He wills in a winking of an eye.

When He returns it will happen so fast men will be in shock.  
Yet His delay in his return causes men to doubt God.

An atheist was asked the question, what if when you die you find there was a God? He answered, I will ask Him why is it that you worked so hard to conceal yourself?

WHAT A FOOL.

The very creation shouts His existence, yet professing themselves to be wise they have become fools. Most foolish of all is that men try to limit God and put Him in the bottle of time that they themselves are captive to.

Also, if God did reveal Himself as they think He should and they still doubt, they would have committed the unpardonable sin. That was what the unpardonable sin was.

When God made himself known and men observed his workings, and yet they still doubted.

## **II. OUR LIFE IS RESTRICTED BY TIME:**

Psalms 90:7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

***PSA 90:1 {A Prayer of Moses the man of God.} LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.***

***Moses wrote this while they were being consumed in the wilderness for their disobedience to God.***

**1. *We are consumed in thine anger.***

We are under the discipline of time. Our limited time is because we have sinned.

We are under the discipline of the clock.  
Time is our school master.  
Time is the chastening rod of God.  
Time is our disciplinarian.  
We live within the confines and limitations of time.  
We each are allotted only so much time.

Notice in this verse when it talks about time, how it insinuates that God chastens us because we are sinners by limiting our time on earth.. OUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED BECAUSE WE HAVE FALLEN IN GOD'S WRATH.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Because our days are limited we suffer the reality of God's chastening hand in our lives. Our days are numbered and limited by time because we are sinners and under the condemnation of death. We are in essence doing our time and are prisoners in this corruptible body.

Time takes it toll on our lives.  
We grow weaker.. with time.  
Time wears on us.  
Our body's ability to heal itself weakens with time.

Ever notice how a vehicle rusts and corrodes with time.  
This process is called oxidation. So too, oxidation takes place with our bodies.

We call this cancer in a car. It is taking place in our bodies, this is why we get those aches and pains as we get older. When we are younger the cells are replacing themselves at a more rapid pace because we are still growing. When we get older there is less growth hormone that our body produces and for this reason we do not heal as well.

So we are chastened of God in time as we grow old.  
The Bible in Ecclesiastes calls these days the evil days.

ECC 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

ECC 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

ECC 12:3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

ECC 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

ECC 12:5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

ECC 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

ECC 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

You would think that God would make an exception for some people with this process. Yet He makes no exceptions. We all are going to go through this process.

## **2. WE ARE GOING TO BE CALLED INTO ACCOUNT FOR WHAT WE DID WITH OUR TIME HERE ON EARTH .**

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Paul says that we should be special stewards of our time and consider it an asset that will not be available forever. The wording here .. to redeem is a business term. You have heard the expression that time is money. If the prodigal son wasted his father's money, so too, we need to be careful we do not waste time. There are many things we get involved in, in this life, that are just time wasting activities. So we need to be careful we avoid these time wasting activities.

When I get a computer the first thing I do is erase all the games.

I am not on facebook because I don't want to waste time. If there is something important going on I am sure I will find out about it from you who are on facebook. I do not watch sports, to me it is a waste of time. I don't hunt because the deer waste my time, they never come when I want them to and then I have this other problem, when they do come I might miss.

If you are going to make the most use of your time, if you are going to redeem the time, then you need to stay focused that your time is limited and the Bible commands you to invest your time like a man invests stocks.

Invest your time like a businessman invests his money.

Invest your time like an Olympic athlete tries to improve his race.

Be diligent with your time.

Don't squander your time. John Gill says,

***It is a metaphor taken from merchants and traders who diligently observe and improve the seasons for merchandise and trade. It is a great part of Christian wisdom to redeem the time. Good Christians must be good husbands of their time, and take care to improve it to the best of purposes, by watching against temptations, by doing good while it is in the power of their hands, and by filling it up with proper employment-one special preservative from sin. They should make the best use they can of the present seasons of grace. Our time is a talent given us by God for some good end, and it is misspent and lost when it is not employed according to His design. If we have lost our time heretofore, we must endeavor to redeem it by doubling our diligence in doing our duty for the future. The reason given is because the days are evil, either by reason of the wickedness of those who dwell in them, or rather "as they are troublesome and dangerous times to you who live in them." Those were times of persecution wherein the apostle wrote this: the Christians were in jeopardy every hour. When the days are evil we have one superadded argument to redeem time, especially because we know not how soon they may be worse. People are very apt to complain of bad times; it were well if that would stir them up to redeem time. "Wherefore," says the apostle (v. 17), "because of the badness of the times, be you not unwise, ignorant of your duty and negligent about your souls, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Study, consider, and further acquaint yourselves with the will of God, as determining your duty." Observe, Ignorance of our duty, and neglect of our souls, are evidences of the greatest folly; while an acquaintance with the will of God, and a care to comply with it, bespeak the best and truest wisdom.***

The proper use of your time goes along with the parables the Lord gave of giving an account of our talents. Time is a talent. Time is an asset.

### **3. THERE WAS THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS.**

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Each of us have a different amounts of time given to us.

Some will live a short life, some a long, some will have good health in the time allotted, some will have poor health.

We as stewards will be called into account for how we used our time.

People often comment to me, "How do you have the time to do all that you do?"

Pastor a church.

Run a business.

Write music and plays.

Truth is, I do not do a lot of things. I stay focused on a few things.

It is hard to prioritize what we do. However we never go wrong when we put the Lord first in all things. When we do that, everything will fall into line.

**1. THE LORD should be number one in all that you do.**

Matt. 6:33 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.. and all thee things will be added unto you..

What are all the other things?

- 2. Your Family.**
- 3. A good church.**
- 4. A good way to make a living, job or business, etc.**
- 5. All other hobbies and activities.**

When you put the Lord first everything else will fall in line and in perspective.

If the Lord comes first you will be a good husband or a wife and your family will fall into line.

If the Lord comes first you will be a good faithful church member.

If the Lord comes first you will be a good employee or business owner.

If the Lord comes first everything else you do in life will fall into line.

Can we enumerate the priorities in our lives?

If you put your family first you may dishonor the Lord.

If you put your church first you may wind up in the wrong church where the Lord is not honored.

If you put your employment or business first you will fall into idolatry.

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:**

The church is a place where you should be taught and be able to serve the Lord, not be entertained, not just go because your parents and grandparents went there.

My business, sometimes I have to sacrifice my business for a greater cause. The church comes before my business. My business is an asset to further my testimony with the Lord, to provide for my family, to help my church.

So it is that really I do not do a lot of things. I have no time for activities that do not further the cause of the few things that I am involved in.

In fact whatever I do outside of these activities will in fact burn up at the judgment day.

AND IN FACT, THE OLDER I GET THE MORE I REALIZE I AM ONLY TO FOCUS ON ONE THING.

Obeying and glorifying God. All the other things fall into line.

Reason I want to be a good family man is because the Bible says that I am supposed to be.

Reason the church is important to me is because God said it should be.

The reason I have a business is because God has allowed me to have one to support my family and church, and the Bible says be diligent in business.

I Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

If Paul the Apostle at times had to make tents to support his ministry, why is it that we think it is below any Pastor to have to work at times?

Again it depends on your circumstances, your talents, and what God has for every minister what he does in these areas. **GOD COMMANDS YOU TO REDEEM THE TALENT OF TIME HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU. NO ONE ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE.**

Frank Bissol will give an account for Frank Bissol. No lawyer will stand by your side in that day. You and you alone will stand before God and give an account.

God had a pilgrimage for Peter the Apostle to follow and when he turned around and asked about John, Jesus said what is that to thee follow thou me. **GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO FOLLOW THE WILL OF GOD HE HAS FOR OTHER MEN. HE WANTS YOU TO FOLLOW HIS WILL FOR YOU.**

When I first came to the church I was faced with a difficult decision. I called a few pastors who were in the ministry a lot longer than me who I respect. I got two different opinions I picked the one I liked the best and after I did it I knew I made a mistake. It was then I realized I needed to learn to walk with God and get direction from Him alone.

Nothing wrong with getting advice but make sure it is God who directs you to seek that advice. By the way, I have found that the advice of the men of the church is just as good as any people outside of the church.

**THIS IS A COMMAND: "REDEEM THE TIME BE GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR TIME.."**

I'm thinking of a Pastor who went off to some church growth conference and came back and spit his church.. The very pastor who headed up that conference he went to would not have gone to the conference if he were in this Pastor's shoes.

As a Pastor, taking care of our local church is more important to me than running off to some Pastor's conference.

I just got a call from a friend who is preaching at a Pastor's conference in Philadelphia about 2 ½ hours away. The conference is Tuesday. I can't go because I have a funeral to do at our own church. The funeral of a good friend of this church is more important than a Pastor's conference.

The best way to make a decision about your time and schedule is to accept the decision that God already made for you! God already decided for me, the church He called me to comes before any other church or ministry.

**4. WE ARE STEWARDS OF THE TIME GOD HAS ALLOTTED US.  
WE FIND THIS IN THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.**

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

10 servants each received the same amount to invest..

In the one parable each received different amounts of money according to their abilities.

In the another parable in Matt. 25 each of the servants received a different amount. One received 5 talents another 2 talents another 1 talent. Each based on their abilities.

Each of us receive but one life.

Each of us have different opportunities in this life.

The hours in a day are the same for all of us.

The life He has given is the same for all of us.

What we can do in this short life is different for each of us.

So we all receive one pound, but we all are given different talents according to our abilities.

God is not going to hold me responsible for what He has not given me, He is going to hold me responsible only for what He has given to me.

Jesus did not live a long life but look what He did.

John the Baptist did not have a long ministry but look what he did.

Each of us has the same gift of one life.

Each of us have the same hours in a day, 24 hours.

Each of us have different abilities and talents and opportunities in this life.

In that 24 hours you can choose to get up early or go to bed late.

Redeem the time. There are some things that are better done at night.

There are some things that are better done early in the morning.

You say, I am a night person it is hard for me to get up early.

Or I am an early riser it is hard for me to stay up late.

I am a Jesus person sometimes He got up early sometimes he stayed up late.

Sometimes He took extra opportunities to rest.

I have had calls late at night for emergencies. I take them.

I have had to get up early in the morning to meet contractors. I get up early.

I am a night person.  
I am a morning person.  
I am a Jesus person. I do what He wants me to do when He wants me to do it.

REDEEM THE TIME.

SOME THINGS CAN ONLY BE DONE AT NIGHT.  
SOME THINGS CAN ONLY BE DONE IN THE MORNING.  
Be good stewards of the morning.  
Be good stewards of the night.

### **III. TIME IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS WE ALL HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT.**

1 hour is not different for you than it is for me.

It is like the parable of the pounds we all are given the same amount.

BUT WHY IS IT THAT SOME MAKE MORE OF WHAT IS GIVEN THAN OTHERS?  
THE REASON WHY IS BECAUSE THEY INVEST THEIR TIME MORE WISELY.

### **IV. TIME IS SOMETHING WE ARE GIVEN TO INVEST AND WE SHOULD WISELY INVEST IT.**

We have the choice to do with our time what we want.

### **V. THE BIBLE TELLS US TO ASK GOD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS.**

#### **1. AS WE GET OLDER THE REALITY OF THE BREVITY OF LIFE BECOMES MORE APPARENT WE REALIZE WE WILL NOT BE HERE FOREVER.**

My Dad, when he was in his later 40's, talked to me about his will. He asked me if I wanted to take over his business. That was in 1974. October 27<sup>th</sup> 1974 I received Christ and shortly after that I had to tell him I couldn't take over his business and take me out of his will. The reason why is because God changed my life and I could no longer be involved in the liquor business. The major part of his business was a bar. The Lord clearly says,

HAB 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

That was a difficult decision for me, because it was me that encouraged and in some respects talked my father into leaving his barber business and buying a bar.

#### **2. AS WE GET OLDER TIME GOES FASTER AND BECOMES MORE COMPRESSED.**

We grow older and our days become compressed. When we are younger each day represents a greater portion of our lives. As we get older each day represents a small percentage of our memory experiences and we get the impression that time has sped up. The reason for this is that the proportion of our life becomes compressed with each passing day. Until our days seem to become a vapor.

For example, to my 33-year-old daughter, a year accounts for just about 3 per cent of her life. Christmas time seems to come around all too quickly. To my 4 year-old grandchild a year is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of his life. The idea of having to wait a quarter of his life until Christmas is almost an eternity.

Under this exponential model, the proportional increase in age that a four-year-old experiences between Christmas' is equivalent to a 40-year-old waiting until they turn 50 for their next birthday. When looked at time from this relative perspective, it makes sense that time seems only to accelerate as we age.

When we are younger we think of years as portions of our lives.

As we get older we think more in terms of decades, our twenties, our thirties, our 40's etc. 50's etc.

Under the exponential model, the ages from 5 to 10, 10 to 20, 20 to 40 and even 40 to 80 might all seem equally long (or short).

Understanding our perception of time in this model.

The 40-year period between ages 40 and 80, will seem the same as your perception of time between ages 5-10.

Think of time in relationship to generations. Say a generation is as short as 20 years though more realistically it is 20-30 years.. But for the sake of making the math easy lets say it is 20 years. A woman can have a child at age twenty and say her mother had her when she was twenty.

So each year of the 1 year old is  $\frac{1}{20}$ <sup>th</sup> of the mother.. at age 1

The mother at age 20 is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the age of her mother

And say the 40 year old grandmother still has her mother alive and she is 60 each year to her is  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rds</sup> of the years of her mother.

What a year of time is in perspective to each generation based on their age:

Total perspective of their memory experiences:

**$\frac{1}{20}$ <sup>th</sup> 1 year old in perspective to mom.**

**$\frac{1}{2}$  20 year old in perspective to her mom which is grand-mom.**

**$\frac{2}{3}$  40 year old in perspective to her mom which is great grand-mom.**

So as a person ages their perspective of time is compressed based on their memories and experiences. So the older you get there is less of a gap between generations.

LETS MAKE 20 years a generation gap.

So time seems to go slower when you're younger, and faster when you're older, it is all a matter of perspective. This all accelerates until we stand before God and we will be agreeing with James 4:14:

James 4:14 ..... For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

By time we meet the Lord we will be saying it happened all too fast. So this is a reminder, what we do for the Lord let us do it quickly because judgment day is coming and we soon will stand before the Lord.

## **VI. WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THE LESSONS OF THE BREVITY OF LIFE?**

### **1. We should learn that there is a limitation to what we can do.**

The wise person will limit his activities to those that are most profitable for eternity.

We each are given the same pound, a 24 hour day and our 70 - 80 years.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Invitation:

Time will not permit me to finish this message, but what is the application of the message to you?

You have one life. The same goes for everyone. In that life God has chastened you with limited time. So you can either make the most of it, or complain about the bum rap you got from God and complain about it.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.  
Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.  
Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **THOU WICKED AND SLOTHFUL SERVANT.**

Those who invest their time wisely, some may say, well I don't have all these talents to invest so I might as well do nothing!!

That is really smart. God never condemned any of the stewards for not gaining as much as others with their time. The only one that He condemned was the one who squandered all his time and wasted it.

THEIR ARE CERTAIN ACTIVITIES THAT WILL DEVOUR YOUR TIME. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRODIGAL SON. WHAT WERE THEY?

He wasted his time in riotous living and drunkenness.

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.  
Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;  
Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Notice verse 18 be not drunk with wine. Drinking, drugging.  
Entertainment of this world.  
Activities that are total time wasters and profitable for nothing.

HE COULD HAVE GIVEN HIS MONEY TO THE MONEY CHANGERS.  
WHO ARE THE MONEY CHANGERS? THE BANKERS, THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERTISE IN INVESTING AND BRINGING FORTH FRUIT.

THE CHURCH IS GOD'S SPIRITUAL BANK.  
WE SHOULD BE ABOUT INVESTING TIME AND ENERGY TO BRING SOULS INTO THE KINGDOM.

You could tithe.  
You could help the church.  
You could have supported missionaries.  
You could sing in the choir.  
You could hand out tracts.

**TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS  
MESSAGE ON TIME PART TWO**

**HOW DO WE LEARN TO NUMBER OUR DAYS AND APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM?**

PSA 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

PSA 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

**PSA 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**

**I. WE NEED TO ASK GOD TO TEACH US TO UNDERSTAND TIME AND THE NUMBERING OF OUR DAYS.**

It is hard to understand time in God's perspective.

**1. IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE VANITY OF LIFE AND ALL ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WE MUST FIRST LEARN WHAT THINGS IN LIFE ARE VAIN AND SERVE NO ETERNAL PURPOSE.**

***The book of Ecclesiastes is a great book to explain the vanity of life and all that we do in this life. When you read it you find that there is absolutely nothing in this life that will, in the end, bring fulfillment and purpose except one thing. FEAR GOD KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!***

But of all the things that we do in this life, there is nothing that the average person does more and spends more time doing than trying to make a living. However, we should ask the Lord to teach us to apply our hearts to wisdom.

1TI 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1TI 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

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EVERYTHING IS VAIN. ALL WE DO IS VAIN. ALL WE ACCOMPLISH IS VAIN.

I delivered piano to a millionaire's house. The fellow spent a fortune putting pavers in his driveway and now he is having problems plowing it because of the damage it would do to the pavers. So they fall into the pit, i.e. the money pit. Now they need an expensive snow blower.

I had another client with a house full of antiques. When they got older they had to liquidate everything because they had no family to leave these to. I was there to move their pianos out that I delivered.

Solomon said it well, vanity of vanity all is vanity. Everything in this life is vain and futile.

There is absolutely nothing you can do that will really fulfill you in this life. ALL IS VANITY.

Is a millionaire satisfied with his millions? If you make 7.50 an hour you want 10.00  
If you make 20,000 you want 30,000 If you make 100,000 you want 200,000.

Read the Bible, so and so lived and did this or that and died.

THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WE HAVE IN THIS LIFE IS BEING CONTENT.  
EVERYTHING IS MARKETED TO BRING DISCONTENTMENT.  
CAN'T MAKE MONEY OFF YOU IF YOU ARE CONTENT.

In 1985-86 purchased a computer and in 1988 I started putting messages on the computer rather than hand writing messages.

I have my messages archived since 1988.

I now can look back in time over 37 years of sermons and lessons and history.  
Tent meetings, Bible Schools, but it really is not a lot.

I was looking back at some of the funeral sermons and notes.

1989 Selwyn Schmitt passed away. I was only at the church 6 years when he died. That was 31 years ago. It doesn't seem that long. I preached a message entitled **"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"**.

Tuesday I will be preaching at the graveside funeral of Theron Lewis. Theron was the man that I talk about that donated his labor to do our blacktop.

In 1989 three weeks to the day after Selwyn Schmitt's funeral I preached the funeral of Theron's mother, Gertrude Lewis. I preached a message entitled **"ARE YOU READY FOR THE FLOOD?"**

In 2006 Carlton, Theron's brother, died and I preached his funeral. Carlton would always pick a hymn during request time based on hymn number. He would always pick a unknown hymn. Just like picking a number out of a hat. Our hymnal has over 800 hymns! On his death bed he picked a hymn for his funeral. He told his daughter to tell me to **sing hymn #352**. I cringed because I didn't want to sing some strange hymn at his funeral. The Hymn was "MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD". So that is what we sung and that was the title of his funeral message.

In 2007, a year later, Anna Jones their Sister died. I preached a message entitled **"WITH MEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE"**.

Now in on Tuesday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> I will be speaking at the graveside service of Theron Lewis. Time has passed so quickly. What memories I have of these great servants of God. All of them loved the Lord and all of them were faithful helpers of this ministry through the years.

Time has passed so quickly for these who have gone before us.

When the psalmist says teach us to number our days we have to consider  
WHAT DAYS WE MAY HAVE LEFT.

AND WHAT IS THE MOST EXPEDIENT WAY TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH THE DAYS WE HAVE LEFT?

ONLY GOD CAN REVEAL TO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS THE CONCEPT OF ETERNITY.

AND THE REALITY OF THE VANITY OF LIFE. How sad it is that people chase after the rainbow of things thinking it will bring fulfillment. IT WILL NOT!!!!

The foolish people of this world:

***Psalms 49:6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;***

***Psalms 49:7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:***

***Psalms 49:8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)***

***Psalms 49:9 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.***

***Psalms 49:10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.***

***Psalms 49:11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.***

***Psalms 49:12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.***

***Psalms 49:13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.***

## ***2. TO UNDERSTAND TIME IS TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS GOD'S CHASTENING TOOL IN OUR LIFE.***

### ***A. It chastens us to bring the elements of death and suffering. We are all under it's law.***

Psalms 90:7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

The clock constrains us so we can't do all that we want to do.

It was the clock that destroyed Hitler. He was sleeping on D day and his generals feared to waken him.

Some people who think the whole world revolves around them will not be constrained by the clock and will suffer for it.

I'm thinking about:

Lady who was fired for not showing up for work in time.

The student who gets too many late slips.  
The person who will not get up out of bed.  
The person who loves sleep.. will come to poverty.  
The person who cannot be disciplined by the clock will suffer for it.

Those who refuse to understand the limitations of their days.  
Time is something that is a valuable resource.

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS.

Soon at the end of the year my accountant will be asking me to do a complete inventory of what I have in stock.

Sometimes I have to struggle to give an account of my inventory.

AT THE END OF YOUR LIFE GOD IS GOING TO TAKE AN INVENTORY OF HOW YOU SPENT YOUR TIME.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.  
WHAT DID YOU DO.  
WHAT VALUE WAS IT.

**B. WE NEED TO ASK GOD TO TEACH US WHAT TO EXCLUDE FROM OUR LIVES.**

It is often more important to learn what not to do in this life.  
As much as it is to learn what to do.

Satan will seek to devour your days and time.

Time is something that should not be wasted.

Some waste it in too much sleep.

Proverbs 20:13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Some waste it with too much of the pleasures of this life.

EPH 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

EPH 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

EPH 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

EPH 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

***Proverbs 23:29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?***

***Proverbs 23:30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.***

***Proverbs 23:31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.***

***Proverbs 23:32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.***

***Proverbs 23:33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.***

***Proverbs 23:34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.***

***Proverbs 23:35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.***

**II. WHEN WE ASK GOD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS WE ARE ASKING HIM TO HELP US DO A PROPER APPRAISAL OF OUR LIVES.**

**1. WE NEED TO ASK GOD TO TEACH US WHAT TO INCLUDE IN OUR TIME.**

What are the things we should invest in?

We have limited time

Our days are limited, our resources, limited.

**2. WHEN WE ASK GOD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS. We are asking God to help us do the math.**

When we number something we do an inventory.

We take an inventory to see:

What we have now.

What we have had in the past.

What profit we made from what we did with these assets.

And what we will do with our assets in the future.

**3. TIME IS AN ASSET AND WE CAN PUT A VALUE TO WHAT WE DID WITH THE INVESTMENT OF OUR TIME.**

**4. SOME ARE WASTING THAT ASSET.**

As we do an inventory in our lives, as we add everything up, we can see what was wasted and we should do an appraisal of how we spent our time.

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS.

As we add everything up what do we have left?

How sad it is that we waste such a great asset in our lives as time.

Some people are not very good at doing the math.

They never take inventory and hence their lives are bankrupt.

**III. ALLOW GOD TO TEACH US TO LEARN THE LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN. WE NEED WISDOM TO APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM.**

Wisdom is the practical application of Scriptural knowledge.

Through wisdom we understand how to order our lives.

**1. WE NEED WISDOM TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES.**

What should we do.

What should we schedule in our lives.

etc. etc.

BOOK OF PROVERBS IS A BOOK OF WISDOM.

BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES IS A BOOK OF WISDOM.

**2. WISDOM IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO BE FED AND THAT FEEDING COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD.**

Mary and Martha are examples.

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

We must first hear wisdom and understand wisdom before we can apply wisdom to our hearts and life.

**3. Only Spiritual things are eternal everything else is temporal.**

TO APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM IS TO FEED ON THE WORD OF GOD.

I Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

I Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

I Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

I Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

I Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The word of God is the only thing that will last.

**IV. APPLICATION :**

After doing inventory and numbering your days, how much involvement have you had in the area of spiritual wisdom?

Are you growing in the Lord and in wisdom?

Are you maturing in the word?

## **CONCLUSION**

How do you apply your hear to wisdom?  
By being a hearer and doer of the word of God?

First you hear.  
Then you do.

So as Mary of old we should apply our hearts to wisdom and the word of God.  
Jesus said of Mary that this will never be taken from her, and so too it will never be taken from us.

TEACH US TO APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM.

May God apply this message to our hearts.