Redeeming the Time

Ephesians 5:15-17

I. The Text
- A. The context is exhortation to walk as God's children with Spiritual fruit in a sinful world.
- B. Our walk, or lives, should be done circumspectly – with an inspection of every part of our lives.
- C. Fools allow life to happen to them, but wise men make choices based on their sober inspection.
- D. Redeeming – or buying back – the time we are allowed in light of the evil in which we live.
- E. All our choices should be made spiritually and carefully to avoid folly and to fulfill God's will.
- F. These words are repeated in a context of walking wisely before the world around us (Col 4:5).

II. The Problem
- A. Time is not waiting for any of us. Today is July 2, 2000. It seems just yesterday was Y2K.
- B. Time is a very scarce resource. You may buy more water, food, or gasoline; but not more time.
- C. Time accelerates with age. Our fathers have told us, and so does Scripture (Psalm 102:11).
  1. This is a matter of perception. The closer the end of a desired thing, the faster it ends.
  2. A shadow barely moves in the middle of the day, but it races as evening approaches.
- D. If Satan can keep us too busy to circumspectly and soberly consider our lives, he wins.
- E. Do you have the time to pray, confess, read, meditate, consider, and muse as a true Christian?
- F. Do you have the time to enjoy your wife, train your children, fellowship your brethren, etc.?
- G. How will your epitaph read? How will it describe your use of time? For yourself? For Christ?

III. The Commandment
- A. Moses asks God to teach us to number our days for applying our hearts to wisdom (Ps 90:12).
  1. Is there a more practical and valuable text in the Bible regarding life? I know not one.
  2. We must count our days; we must isolate and identify each day; we cannot live forever.
  3. Our hearts, sobered by brief lives, are to be preoccupied with the wisdom of God's will.
- B. A godly attitude toward life is to seek full understanding of its brevity and frailty (Psalm 39:4).
- C. Start early remembering your Creator in your youth (Eccl 12:1). Not enough time? Redeem it.
- D. We are to seek first Christ's kingdom, so our time should be allocated accordingly (Matt 6:33).
- E. Take no thought for the morrow, for there is sufficient evil to occupy us today (Matthew 6:34).
- F. It is high time to get serious about our lives of godliness and resist the flesh (Rom 13:11-14).
- G. Since time is scarce, we are to BE without carefulness in each part of our lives (I Cor 7:29-32).
- H. Don't presume even on tomorrow (James 4:13-16). For you have no knowledge of tomorrow.
- I. We have our time past and the rest of our time. We must live the latter to the Lord (I Pe 4:1-5).
- J. God judges without respect of persons, therefore we must use our time in fear (I Peter 1:17).
- K. The Hebrews had sufficient time to be teachers, but they had been slothful (Hebrews 5:12).
- L. The parable of the talents teaches us to wisely use opportunities in limited time (Mat 25:14-30).
- M. If we do not use time soberly and circumspectly, we are as ungodly scoffers (II Peter 3:1-18).

IV. The Cure
- A. Redeeming time – or buying it back – is as easy as saying "No" to the million requests for it.
- B. No man's time is truly out of his control – you may redeem or buy back your time if you wish.
- C. I gave a list of priorities to the men, and I have preached Bible priorities. Do you honor them?
- D. Being busier is not the answer. We redeem or buy back time by exchanging other things for it.
- E. Less sleep is likely not the cure, for He giveth His beloved sleep rather than stress (Ps 127:2).
- F. Godly use of time liberates us from our nation's worship of work and activity. Slow down.
- G. The false prophetess Jezebel at Thyatira was given a space – limited time – to repent (Re 2:21).
- H. As in every spiritual matter, we need to repent, confess, and convert to a better use of our time.