

REDEEMING THE TIME

EPHESIANS 4:11-19, 5:14-20

Text: Ephesians 5:16

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

Introduction:

Paul was writing this letter from prison. He covers a number of things in this letter to this church. He deals with:

1. The Calling of the church in chapters 1-3.
2. The Conduct of the church in chapters 4-5.
3. The Conflict of the church in chapter 6.

In our text I believe that we can see the heart of the writer. He reminds this church in Eph. 4:16 that God would supply those that are needed to do the work of the ministry;

(Ephesians 4:16) "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the

body unto the edifying of itself in love."; and to get busy doing the work of the ministry in Eph 5:16.

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

Those that God sends to carry out the work are sent for a purpose and a reason. Let me also say that each one that God sends has something specific to do. And let me follow that by saying that in doing that in which God has sent us to do, we are to do it with all our might, with the right means, to the fullest measure, and with the right motive. Paul reminds them not to think more of themselves than they ought in doing or carrying out the work of the ministry, and to live a life that is Christ like.

(Ephesians 4:17-19) "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, {18} Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: {19} Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

Then in chapter 5 Paul reminds them to get busy.

Several years ago there was an article that was published in a magazine when the average life span was 71 years. We are living a few more years these days but the averages are still the same.

The article states that in the 71 years that an individual will spend:

23 years sleeping

6 years in a car

3 years eating

11 years in leisure activities

2 years getting dressed

17 years working

Let's say you come to church Sunday morning and evening and Wed. night, an average of 3 hours a week, you will spend a total of 461 days in church in your life time or 1 year and 3 months or 15 months.

Today we have grown accustomed to living on the run - we work on the run, we eat on the run, we see our families on the run, we even worship God on the run.

The only thing that most of us stop for is to sleep and some do little of that.

Our time is a very precious commodity, cramming all we can into a 24 hour day.

However the Bible tells us that we need to be actively redeeming (rescue from loss, preserving, safeguard, or improve opportunity) our time as Christians.

Each day that goes by God deals with me on making sure I am focused and in the center of His perfect will, and that the times and opportunities given to me is not wasted.

We need to redeem the time:

1. BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF OUR LIFE

(James 4:14) "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

"This world is not my home I'm only passing through" this is true for both the saved and lost.

A. We are tenants of this world.

(Psalms 39:5) "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah."

B. We are tested and tried in this world.

(James 1:2-3) "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; {3} Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

C. We are terminal in the world

(Hebrews 9:27) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

1. The day we were conceived we began to die.

We need to redeem the time because of the shortness of time.

2. BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR LIFE.

A. Every day that pass you must make choices

B. Lost - get saved (Matt. 16:26)

(Matthew 16:26) "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

C. Saved - get serious (Matt 6:24-25)

(Matthew 6:24-25) "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. {25} Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

D. Serving - stay serving. (1 Cor 4:2; 2 Tim 2:2)

(1 Corinthians 4:2) "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

(2 Timothy 2:2) "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

We need to redeem the time because of the seriousness of our life, and the shortness of time.

3. BECAUSE OF THE STATEMENT OF OUR LIFE

A. The Christians life is a commentary - people can read us like a book.

B. The Christian life should be a contrast to the world - are we truly different? (2 Cor 6:17)

(2 Corinthians 6:17) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

C. Christian life often is a barrier that is critical - stumbling block. (1 Cor 8:9)

(1 Corinthians 8:9) "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

Close:

Do you know just how short your life really is?

Are you aware just how serious the choices you make are?

Are you conscious about the statement your life is making?

Lost - get saved; saved - get serious & get serving;
serving - stay serving.

Remember God sends those to carry out the ministry.
Each one has something to do. And in doing it the
work will be accomplished and the body will increase.

(Ephesians 4:16) "From whom the whole body fitly
joined together and compacted by that which every
joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in
the measure of every part, maketh increase of the
body unto the edifying of itself in love."