

Redeem the Time – Part II

Sunday Morning, January 8, 2017

Last week we were challenged not to lose the time we've been given, by redeeming our time for God's purpose. In order for us to keep from losing the time God has given to us, we must lose something else...our own lives. What does it mean to lose our lives? It means that we decide to transfer the authority in our own lives to God's authority over our lives. This is a major and serious decision to make. It's not just giving over our life to God in general, but giving our life to Him daily.

Our human nature tells us what we think will be best for our lives (i.e "skies the limit"). Unfortunately with our limited knowledge and wisdom, we probably really do not know what is best. We must instead choose God's will for our lives. Only by following His will can we discover His plans and purpose for our lives and redeem the time. These things will not only exceed any aspiration of our own, but we will experience the fullness of life that God intends for us! Consider:

(Jeremiah 33:3) 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

(Jeremiah 29:11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

God has great plans for us. He thinks peaceful and good thoughts towards us and our future.

The 1800's American Evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, was asked a question:

"If you knew the Lord was coming tonight, how would you spend the rest of your day?" He answered, "I wouldn't do anything different than I do every day."

What D.L. Moody meant was that he was already living each day for God. He was redeeming the time given him by God to live!

We need to remember that life is short.

(James 4:14)

whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

(Psalm 144:4)

Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

(I Peter 1:24)

Because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away,

We need to be careful as Christians to keep a proper focus on the goals God has given us in life.

(Luke 12: 16 – 21)

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’

18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”

20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

This man sought early retirement, so he could live a life of ease, a life for himself. God called him a fool!

The wise man seeks to be rich in God!

The wise man takes each day seriously for God.

(Psalm 90:12)

So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

And the wise man guards and prepares his heart so it is able to receive what God has for him. The soil of his heart is tilled and ready for the things God gives him to live for God.

(Matthew 13: 18 – 23) 18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Our heart can either reject or accept the things of God. The time we’ve been given to live will either be redeemed for God or lost forever!

Redeeming our time requires taking up the cross, enduring the suffering, the sacrifice, the rejections, for the cause of Christ and knowing Him.

(Matthew 10: 38 – 39)

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. This is the cost of redeeming the time...

Are you willing to pay the price? _____