

Redeem the Time

New Years Day, Sunday Morning, January 1, 2017

“How To Slow Down Time” Video By DNews
(<http://youtu.be/KS1NSyMOjsk>)

The young lady in this video, Laci Green, was making the point that we affect how we perceive time. We can either cause ourselves to see time passing by quickly or passing by slowly. Many of us feel that time passes by faster and faster as each year of our life passes. According to Scientists, time will pass by more slowly if we are busy and consumed with new things in our thoughts. God however, didn't create time for us to decide how to spend it and how quickly to spend it. God created time for us to use for His glory and purposes. He expects us to make the most of the time He has given us. He wants us to redeem the time. Let's look at

(Ephesians 5: 15 – 17)

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

When we walk (or live) our lives carefully and intentionally as the Lord leads us to do, then we are “redeeming the time”.

To redeem the time we must rescue time from loss.

1

(Flip)



Often times people are unable to press forward in their lives because they know how they've lost time not living for God. Guilt swallows them. God does not want us to hold on to the past, but instead wants us to embrace the future! Look with me at **(Is. 43: 18 – 19)**
18 “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

One of the thrilling things about the adventure of following Christ are the new things He will do in our lives.

Now let's turn to **(Philippians 3: 12 – 14)**

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Interestingly, there is an element of our lives that is concealed from us, and the only way we can discover what God has planned for us can only be accomplished by devoting our lives to Him. This is what is meant when the Apostle Paul says that we are to pursue the “mark” or “goal” that God has called us to discover.

Discovering the prize that God wants to give us is part of the adventure of devoting our lives to Him.

2

(Turn Inside Out)



What can we do to redeem the time God gives us and discover what is new that God has for our lives?

1. Make the decision to be focused on God

(Romans 13: 11 – 12)

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

2. Devote yourself to God.

(Colossians 4:2) Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

“Continue” or “Persevere” or “Devote”. The word devote here means “To busy yourself. In our video the young lady stated that the busier our brains are the slower time will go for us. We will be focused on the task at hand. We need to redeem the time, or slow it down for God’s use, instead of speeding it up and wasting it.

We need to busy our brains with time talking to God through prayer with a thankful heart.

We need to know that God hears us and talks back. But we must be attentive to listening to His answers. That is what it means here by “vigilant” or “watch”. We must be awake to be focused on God.

We must watch for God’s answers to prayers.

What a privilege it is to not just talk to God, but to hear from God!

God does not simply ask us to pray as if it was a good suggestion, but God commands us (an imperative) to pray. It is every Christian’s duty.

(Romans 12:12) rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

(I Thessalonians 5:17) pray without ceasing, Why does God command us to pray and not repetitiously, but with an open heart before God?

Because God wants our relationship with Him to be as close as possible.

It is only then that we will know Him and His will for our lives! By doing so we will not lose the time God has given each of us, but we will redeem the time He’s given us with a joyful heart! So this new year, redeem the time God has given you, by being devoted to Him!

Invitation & Lord’s Supper

(Matthew 26: 26 – 29)

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”