

Redeeming the Time By Trey Sullins

We all have 86,400 of something. This something is extremely precious to us, and we use it every single day. This something is time. There are 86,400 seconds in a day and everyday we have the challenge to make sure that we put each of them to good use. Paul wrote to the Ephesian brethren in Ephesians 5:16, “redeeming the time because the days are evil.” The idea he wanted them to understand was that they needed to make the most of their time every single day.

Why is it so important to use our time wisely? Life is too short to spend too much time on unnecessary things. Job 14:1, James 4:14, and 2 Corinthians 4:17 all have something in common. They all point out just how short our lives really are; therefore, we must redeem the time. Besides the length, we only get one chance in this life. It was a big deal back in the day when DVRs came out. The ability to fast-forward, rewind, and pause live television had many people paying out a lot of money to get their hands on one. However, with life there is no redo, and no amount of money will ever change that. Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” The context of Ephesians 5:16 also provides us with another reason as to why it’s so important: “the days are evil.” When we take a look at the world around us it is very evident that satan does not take a day off. Because of this, we cannot take a day off of our Christian walks either.

There are many things we can do to help us better redeem the time. One obvious thing is we must know the word of God. It is impossible to fill our time with godliness if we don’t know what godliness is. Furthermore, seeking a greater knowledge of God’s word through study is also a great way to redeem the time. Second Timothy 2:15, Paul instructed Timothy to be diligent to present himself approved by rightly dividing the word of God. The word “diligent” here means to exert effort into something. It is necessary for Christians to spend much time in the word of God in order to make sure that we are approved.

Second Corinthians 13:5 presents to us another way to redeem the time. “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.” As we study the word of God and grow in our knowledge, we must also ensure that we match up to everything found therein. This requires time and effort into rewiring our brains and changing our lives to match the words of life. God certainly does not expect us to be perfect Christians at baptism or even after years of baptism, but He does expect and command us to constantly be growing in the faith. Such a rebuke came to the Corinthians in the first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:1-4). We should never fall into this disapproval by always increasing in the way of Christ.

We must also redeem the time by being evangelistic. Luke 15 contains three powerful parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. One of the major lessons of all three of these parables is that followers of God should be always looking for opportunities to help bring others to Christ. If God is constantly seeking out the lost, then certainly we should be spending time in this as well. Even Jesus spent much of His short time on this earth in the pursuit of saving souls. After His resurrection, He gave the command for His followers to go into the world teaching and baptizing the lost. We redeem the time by helping to redeem souls.

No matter at what point we are in our lives we all have a great task to use each day in the most profitable way. This does not mean that we can never enjoy life and relax. These things are necessary for a healthy mind and body as well. But it does mean that the majority of our lives should be filled with the good works of God so that we might benefit His kingdom always. How do you redeem the time?