



## It's About Time

August 20, 2023

Each day, we are credited with 86,400 seconds to use however we'd like. Each evening, the unused balance disappears. We must live in the present on today's deposits.

Jesus, who had the most important job in history, never seemed to be in a hurry. He had time to consider the flowers and the birds, and to bless the little children. He knew the key to making the most of His time.

*Psalm 90:1-4* — "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man back into dust and say, 'Return, O children of men.' For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night."

*Psalm 90:10* — "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away."

*Psalm 90:12* — "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom."

*Ephesians 5:15-16* — "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."

### T-Treasure It!

God says we should treasure time as a valuable commodity because **there is a limited amount** of it, and because **how we live now will matter for eternity**.

The Bible teaches a lot about the brevity of life:

1. It's a dream that flies away, (Job 20:8)
2. It's a shadow that disappears, (I Chronicles 29:15)
3. It's a cloud that vanishes, (Job 7:9)
4. It's a flower that dies, (Job 14: 1, 2)
5. It's as grass that withers, (I Peter 1:24, 25)
6. It's a vapor that vanishes, (James 4:14)
7. It's as a mere breath, (Psalm 39:5)
8. It's as nothing, (Psalm 39:5)
9. It's as a phantom, (Psalm 39:6)
10. It's as a sigh, (Psalm 90:9)
11. It's as the wind that passes. (Psalm 78:39)

So, make the most of your time before it is gone. Don't waste time because you don't get that much of it. Opportunities are ever before you, but they must be seized and used or they are wasted.

How we live now will matter for eternity. As believers in Christ, we will all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 5:10* — "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

How we used our time will matter forever. Our eternal rewards, treasures, crowns, and assignments will be determined by how we used our time. Did we use our time for the Lord, or did we squander our time on things that don't really matter?

*"Time is a resource that is nonrenewable and nontransferable. You cannot store it, slow it up, hold it up, divide it up or give it up. You can't hoard it up or save it for a rainy day—when it's lost, it's unrecoverable. When you kill time, remember that it has no resurrection."*  
— A. W. Tozer

### I-Invest it!

In the parable of the minas in Luke 19, a businessman entrusts wealth to the care of his servants while he's away. When he returns, he evaluates what each of his servants did with what he gave them and then rewards them accordingly.

In this parable, the master gave each of his servants the same amount of money. They are to wisely invest that money for the profit of the Master.

Jesus isn't talking about something that we have been given different amounts of like gifts, talents, or money. He is talking about something that we have all been given the same amount of: time.

We each have 24 hours in a day to invest in the profit of the Master. Those who are careful to faithfully invest their time in a way that brings the Master profit are rewarded for doing so.

*Luke 19:16-17 — "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.'"*

At the end of your life on earth, you will be evaluated and rewarded according to how well you handled the time God entrusted to you. If you manage your time wisely for the profit of the Master, then God promises to reward you in eternity.

The first reward is **commendation**: He will say, "Good job! Well done!" The second reward is a **promotion** and greater **responsibility** in eternity: "I will put you in charge of ten cities."

Time is like money in that it can be spent and invested. However, it's different from money because while money can be saved, time can't. If you don't use it, you lose it. **Where you invest your time reveals what is most important to you.**

There are 168 hours in each week. The average person will spend about 56 hours sleeping, 24 hours eating and in personal hygiene, and about 50 hours working or traveling to work. That means there are only about 35 hours a week of "discretionary" time left over, or about 5 hours per day. Where are you investing those hours?

There is no substitute for investing a large quantity of time with God and your family. If they are important, you'll indicate it by the amount of discretionary time you give them.

## **M-Manage it!**

*Ephesians 5:16 — "making the most of your time, because the days are evil."*

We have to be deliberate about how we use our time. If we don't prioritize the important things, the smaller, less important things will take up all our time.

*Matthew 6:33 NKJV — "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

One of the most important things you can invest your time in is your family. We must manage our time, and make sure that the big things that matter most to us are prioritized, or they simply won't happen.

## **E-Enjoy it!**

*Luke 12:15 — "Then He said to them, 'Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.'"*

Life consists of our relationship with God and our relationships with other people.

*Matthew 22:36-40 HCSB — "'Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.'"*

If we want an abundant life, we must prioritize relationships.

*James 4:14 — "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."*

The bad news is that time flies. The good news is you are the pilot. So be wise and deliberate, and spend your time in ways that will not only give you a better life here, but give you a better forever.