

Redeeming the Time – Are we investing or spending our lives?

“So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” (James 4:13-14)

1. Given what we have covered in this series, consider the question...

“Am I investing or spending the time and opportunities God has given me?”

or put another way... **“Am I making the most of opportunity or frittering away life in trivia and half-hearted service?”**

2. Read Ephesians 5:15-16 Christians are to carefully observe how they live, that it be in wisdom. Put another way, **Paul is commanding believers to walk [live] as wise men and women.** Living wisely **includes the idea of stewarding the time (opportunity) given to each of us.**

This speaks to the imperative of investing our time on earth with a transcendent perspective, meaning, and significance in view. Our privilege of time and opportunity is limited. Using time well is a matter of “redeeming” the time and opportunities given.

a. Wasting vice redeeming **“best use of”** Gk exagorazo; buying or redeeming

b. Not foolish in evil days self destruction (Prov 14:1,8; 16:22; 19:3; Prov 9:13-18)

c. But in wisdom “...Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom...” (1 Cor 1:30)

d. Look carefully Gk Akribos accurately, circumspectly

e. Understanding the will of the Lord basic principles found in scripture...

-To belong to Him through Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:3-4)

-To be filled by the Spirit (Eph 5:18), letting the Word of Christ dwell richly (Col 3:16)

-To be sanctified (1 Thess 4:3) and submitted (1 Pet 2:13-15, Heb 13:17)

-To endure suffering (1 Pet 2:20-21, and be thankful (1 Thess 5:18)