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Vision:

The all-

encompassing picture that

captures the



Is Your Time Running Out?

Ephesians 5:15-16: (KJV) ¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We never seem to have enough time - to do the important things, that is. As Christians, what should we be doing with our time? What shouldn't we be doing with our time? Is leisure time bad? Is TV bad? ...E-mail, texting, tweeting? ...Checking the sports scores, listening to our favorite music - good? Bad? Does it matter? Did the Apostles' lives provide examples for time management? Is our time really THAT important? Stay with us as we journey through the challenges of managing one of those things that we have a say over and yet rarely speak up about - our time!

How important is your time?

Perhaps the better question is, "How clear and important is your vision?"

(I))Intro - Better Use of Leisure Time, Coronet Instructional Film (1950)

Coronet Instructional Films were shown in American schools starting in about 1941.

- imagination. (Narrator) Did you ever stop to think how much leisure time you really have? Some of us put our
- (Boy) Moping? He thinks I'm moping! Who wouldn't mope? There's nothing to do, nobody's around. You know how it is! I went down to the bowling alley. I went over to the drug store, but none of the gang was there. All my friends were busy so what's there for me to do?

leisure time to good use. And some of us spend most of our leisure time just moping.

First Commandment - Exodus 20:3: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Putting God first gives us a clear focus point!

James 1:8 Matthew 6:24: Imagine the quality of your thoughts when the Almighty is "true north!"

We will look at the context of our theme text throughout the program, building the importance of managing our lives as we go. Ephesians 5:1-2 Luke 6:35-36

(1)) My 20-year old mission statement, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

20 years ago I wrote a life objective: To seek trust and glorify God through humble service and continual prayer, to raise up qualified disciples as quickly as possible, so that someday I might hear God say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Proverbs 29:18: How do we buy back our time? We need to have a vision that excites and captures our personal imagination. Habakkuk 2:2-4

> Is having a clear vision enough to keep us on track? No! WE CAN SPEND OUR TIME OR WE CAN INVEST OUR TIME.

Our vision is the big, panoramic picture of our passion and purpose. Somebody once said that "the devil is in the details." So, if our vision is like the compass that gets us focused in the right direction, then our priorities are what help us determine which roads to take to get us to our "true north."

(1)) I was available, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

I did what I normally do on September 10th, the day before I become available to go flying. My flying is in blocks of days of availability. So I was available to go flying on September 11th. So at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on September 10th, I sat down at the computer and logged in like I normally do to check to see if there was any unassigned flying for the next day. And sure enough, there was one trip available, American Alrlines Flight #11 out of Boston to Los Angeles. I looked at it and there was no pilot assigned to it yet...it just so happened there was only one guy available to go flying that day, and that was me.





Always do the most important thing at any given moment!

Ephesians 5:25 Ephesians 6:4 1 Timothy 5:8 Galatians 6:10

We started out focused, but it quickly became very broad! If we have clear priorities, we can manage all of these things.

Վり))Bumped, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

Priorities: The necessary ordering of the details of our lives.

• ... I was unaware that a fellow by the name of Tom McGuiness, a

pilot a little bit senior to me, was celebrating his birthday on September 10th with his wife and his children. Tom did what I did that afternoon about 3 o'clock...he went over to the computer and logged in, saw the flight was open but my name had been penciled in. He knew he was still in the 30 minute window of opportunity. He called American Airlines and asked if he could bump me off that trip.

If we are consumed by our priorities, we will have no time for other things.

Context of the theme text: <u>Ephesians 5:3-5</u>: There is too much to do for the Lord and too much to be for the Lord to engage in these kinds of activities. We don't have time for that! <u>Psalms 31:15-16</u>

So, is redeeming the time a "take your time" activity or is it a "panic-a-minute" activity?

Neither! When we have *truly established* our priorities based on the big picture, there will naturally develop a deep sense of urgency, for nothing will be more important than following through on that which has proven to be most important!

Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet Exodus 20:17

Our urgency will be deflated by focusing on envious thoughts.

(I))Flight attendant reports, *In* My Seat, Steve Scheibner

 (Flight attendant to the American Airlines emergency line)
Okay, my name is Betty Ong. I'm [Flight Attendant] Number 3 on Flight 11. Our Number 1 got stabbed. Our purser is stabbed... Urgency: The application of focused energy for a very specific purpose.

<u>Proverbs 6:9</u>: Those who purposefully walk through life *invest* their time in that which is vital to their vision. Acknowledging that Jesus

Christ is our Savior is only the beginning. We need to *live it* and not just *acknowledge* it. We must urgently act for the Lord. Ephesians 5:6-12

I am now on borrowed time, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

• What has stuck with me all these years is the fact that He did leave me behind and I need to act like I'm living on borrowed time, because I am. I saw where I should have died, and I didn't. And now there is an obligation that comes with that. I've got to live my days with a sense of urgency. I have to make sure I get the most out of them - not the most for me. This is about the distinct privilege I've been given to know that somebody died in my place.

We want to make sure our lives are invested in the vision of following Christ. If our life is not accomplishing the bigger vision, that means we are off track.

= (1950) Better Use of Leisure Time, Coronet Instructional Film (1950)

- A good use of leisure time should give you a change. It should help you learn things and it's a good idea to have a long-range goal for your leisure opportunity. But it isn't always easy to find a single occupation that will give you all three values.
- Then you should have more than one activity?
- It does help. Of course even one thing to do is better than just moping. For instance, swimming is a pleasant change, a lot of fun and a chance to build yourself up physically. And what about reading? There's a leisure time activity that will help you learn things you would like to know about many types of subjects.



Focus on that which elevates your being to its highest end! Luke 12:31-34: This text tells us:

First	Urgency
Seek	Priorities
The kingdom	Vision
Do not be afraid for the Father wants you to have it	Inspiration
Sell your possessions and give	Perspiration
Be dedicated to a treasure that is unfailing	Consistency

Inspiration: That which feeds and lifts the heart to be able to overcome.

(I)) My 20-year old mission statement, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

• 20 years ago I wrote a life objective: To seek trust and glorify God through humble service and continual prayer, to raise up qualified disciples as quickly as possible, so that someday I might hear God say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." The events of September 11th took that life objective that I already had and it intensified it for me. The fire just keeps getting hotter as I get older.

So, after urgently choosing to apply spiritual priorities, our theme context continues: Ephesians 5:13-14

Inspiration works best when we have someone whose struggle can be observed, such as the Apostle Paul: <u>Philippians 3:17-21</u>

Now the down side - the opposite example: ¹⁸For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Back to the right side - the glorious results of holding true to the vision:

So, how hard do we have to work if we want to "redeem the time?"

Accept the fact that redeeming the time requires continual effort and exertion!

<u>1 Peter 5:6-9</u>: We have an objective, to stay away from that roaring lion! It takes effort. Ironically, we have to labor to stay in the rest promised by God! Redeeming the time costs us a lot of effort. We make choices as to how our time will be spent or invested.

<u>Ephesians 5:15:17</u>: Be careful where you walk. It is not enough just to have the direction, but we have to apply ourselves and work to sweat spiritually. Growth comes from applying ourselves.

Why would we be willing to sweat? Philippians 3:7-11

)) What drives me now, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

• But someday I want to stand in the Lord's presence. I would hate to get in God's presence, and He says, Sheibner, I see your name is down here, well, have a seat. I need to hear the Lord say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." That's what is driving me these days.

Perspiration: The result of continuous exertion.

Consistency: The continual

application of

all those



So, for how long do we have to sweat?

Never give up, never give up, never, never, never, never give up! (Never!)

<u>Revelation 2:10</u>: So after we were given the admonition to work hard, our theme context now reminds us to stay the course - to compare the ways of man and the ways of God and to choose wisely.

<u>Ephesians 5:18-21</u>: There should be a wellspring of joy within us! We can inspire each other.

())One sat in my seat and the other hung on a cross, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner

• What I know is that somebody died in my place not once, but twice. That's where God comes into the whole thing for me. See, Tom sat in the seat that I was qualified to sit in. By all rights, that was my seat that day. I should have been in that seat. But Tom didn't die for my sins. God sent His own son to die for my sins. He hung, and he bled, and he suffered on a cross to pay a price for me that I wasn't qualified to pay. I couldn't have hung on the cross. I didn't have the qualifications. So one guy sat in the seat that I should have sat in; the other hung and bled on the cross.

How do we check ourselves to be sure that we are consistently following the right path, the right thoughts, the right attitudes and the right actions? As expected, the Scriptures give us the answers.

<u>Philippians 4:4-8</u>: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.



So as we look back over this all important discussion on redeeming the time, what do we know? Our days, hours, and moments should be spent bringing glory to God.

<u>Mark 12:28-31</u>: If you are going to follow Christ, follow his words, teachings and examples in terms of putting God first and foremost.

Is your time running out? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

things necessary towards faithfulness.