



Is Your Time Running Out?


Ephesians 5:15-16: (KJV) ¹⁵*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,* ¹⁶*Redeeming 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?"

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

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

- (Narrator) *Did you ever stop to think how much leisure time you really have? Some of us put our leisure time to good use. And some of us spend most of our leisure time just moping.*
- (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?*



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: (KJV) *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

Matthew 6:24: (KJV) *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

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: (NASB) ¹*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;* ²*and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*





Luke 6:35-36: (NASB) ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

 **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: (KJV) *Where there is no vision, the people perish:*

How do we buy back our time? We need to have a vision that excites and captures our personal imagination.

Habakkuk 2:2-4:(NRSV) ²Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.



Is having a clear vision enough to keep us on track? No!

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."

 **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 Airlines 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: (NASB) *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...*

Ephesians 6:4: (NASB) *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

1 Timothy 5:8: (NASB) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Priorities:

The necessary ordering of the details of our lives.



Galatians 6:10: (NASB) *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

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

 **Bumped, In My Seat, Steve Scheibner**

- ... 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:

Ephesians 5:3-5: (NASB) ³But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

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!

Psalms 31:15-16: ...But I trust in you, Lord. You are my God. My times are in your hands...

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!

Urgency:

The application of focused energy for a very specific purpose.

Tenth Commandment: Thou shalt not covet.

Exodus 20:17: *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*

Our urgency will be deflated by focusing on envious thoughts.

 **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...

Proverbs 6:9: (NRSV) ⁶Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. ⁷Without having any chief or officer or ruler, ⁸it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. ⁹How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep?



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.

Back to the theme context:

Ephesians 5:6-12: (NASB) ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

 **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.

 **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: (NASB) ³¹But seek ("ye first" added in [Matthew 6:33](#)) His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Inspiration:

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



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

 **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: (NASB) ¹³*But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.* ¹⁴*For this reason it says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

Inspiration works best when we have someone whose struggle can be observed, such as the Apostle Paul:

Philippians 3:17-21: (NASB) ¹⁷*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.*

Now the down side - the opposite example:

¹⁸*For 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:

²⁰*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of his glory, by the exertion of the power that he has even to subject all things to himself.*



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!

1 Peter 5:6-9: (NASB) ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

So there is rest, but yet:

⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Perspiration:

The result of continuous exertion.

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.

So, after we have been given the inspiration of glory, our theme text continues:

Ephesians 5:15:17: (NASB) ¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

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: (NASB) ⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.



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, Scheibner, 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.



So, for how long do we have to sweat?

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

Revelation 2:10: (NASB) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, (consistent effort) and I will give you the crown of life.



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.

Ephesians 5:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Consistency:
The continual application of all those things necessary towards faithfulness.

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.

Philippians 4:4-8: (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.

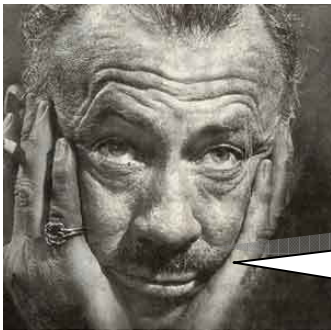
Mark 12:28-31: (KJV) ²⁸And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? ²⁹And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. ³¹And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

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...!*

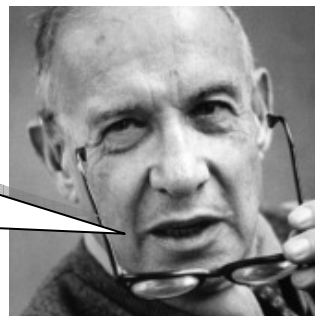


*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



"We now face the dangers that in the past have been the most destructive to the humans; plenty, success, comfort, and the ever increasing leisure. No great people have ever survived these dangers."
- John Steinbeck

"Time is the scarcest resource, and unless it is managed, nothing else can be managed." - Peter Drucker



"People often complain about lack of time when lack of direction is the real problem." - Zig Ziglar



"What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it." - Hugh Mulligan

"Never mistake activity for achievement." - John Wooden



Urgently strain forward towards that which is most valuable!

Philippians 3:12-16: (NASB) ¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

"Perspiration" comes for a variety of reasons - the hard work of resisting the Devil, of putting our past and our "things" aside, but there is at least one more thing...

Discernment:

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13: (NASB) ⁶Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;

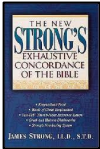


There is much more at stake than our personal focus on the vision - there is the mutual responsibility we share of contributing to the focus of the body as well:

⁹not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. ¹¹For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. ¹³But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

A bit more on vision from Proverbs:

Proverbs 29:18: (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people **perish** <6544>:



Perish: Strong's #6544 *pāra' paw-rah'* to loosen; by implication to expose, dismiss; figuratively absolve, begin—avenge, avoid, bare, go back, let, (make) naked, set at nought, perish, refuse, uncover.

Young's Literal Translation: *Without a Vision is a people made naked*

Rotherham: *Where there is no vision, a people is let loose,*

New Jerusalem Bible: *Where there is no vision the people get out of hand;*

ASV 1901: *Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint;*

A bit about goal setting:

In the world around us, when people are looking to create a mission statement or to accomplish their goals, there are very specific instructions available with a proven track record that one can follow.

1. Have a clearly defined goal;
2. Write it out in great detail;
3. Review it daily;
4. Take action - do those things necessary to make progress;
5. Realize that failures are only stepping-stones; and
6. Never, never, never give up.

These types of instructions can be found in all kinds of self-help books, but did you know that they were in place long before these books were written?

God instructs, encourages and judges:

Habakkuk 2:2-4: (NRSV) ²Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

1. Have a clearly defined goal - *Write the vision,*
2. Write it out in great detail - *make it plain on tablets,*



3. Review it daily - *so that a runner may read it.*
4. Take action - *do those things necessary to make progress - For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.*
5. Realize that failures are only stepping-stones - *If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.*
6. Never, never, never give up. - *the righteous live by their faith.*

If we have Requested in humility and Reset in faith, then we can RECEIVE in confidence.

Proverbs 3:26: (NRSV) *for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.*

Isaiah 40:30-31: (KJV) ³⁰*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:* ³¹*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*