

## Stewardship of Time: Part 2

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”. Psalm 90:12

What does “numbering our days” mean?

1. Evaluating the use and stewardship of our time
2. Evaluating the quality of our time spent.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-12

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 13:11-14

- o *Chronos* – elapsed time
- o *Kairos* – a fixed or definite time, a seasonable time, a time of opportunity, a fruitful time, the fullness of time, a welcomed time, a time of salvation, or a difficult time
- o *Kairos* used 85 times in the New Testament and 30 of these by Paul.
- o Christ came at the *kairos* time (Mark 1:15, Galatians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 6:2 )
- o Christ will return at the *kairos* time – the *right* time.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17

THREE elementary truths.

## 1. OUR TIME ON THIS EARTH IS LIMITED

"Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life" Psalm 39:4

"The length of our days is 70 years, or 80, if we have the strength, yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away" Psalm 90:10

## 2. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Mary and Martha - Luke 10

"Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?"

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her"

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:11-12

## 4 Laws of Unseized Time (MacDonald)

- i. Unseized time flows towards my weaknesses
- ii. Unseized time comes under the influence of dominant people in my world
- iii. Unseized time surrenders to the demands of all emergencies  
Charles Hummel: "we are governed by the tyranny of the urgent"
- iv. Unseized time gets invested in things that gain us public acclamation

How do we seize the time in 2023?

## I. ANALYSE YOUR LIFESTYLE

Paul Ephesians 5:15; Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 90:12

- Add 30 minutes/day to your prime time (175 hrs a year)
- Keep a time log (waste time in same way every day)

## II. MAXIMIZE THE PRESENT (Ephesians 5:16)

'make the use of every opportunity'

Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

2 rules for Utilising your Time

A. Utilise it **creatively**

- 1) *Prime* time - **high priority**
- 2) *Grind* time - **medium to low priority**
- 3) *Unwind* time - relax / "recreate"

B) Utilise it **conditionally**

Get rid of clutter

- PHYSICAL clutter - occupy our VISION in a negative way
- MENTAL clutter - occupy our MIND in negative way
- EMOTIONAL clutter - occupy our SPIRIT in a negative way

## III. PRIORITIZE YOUR TIME

Understand what God's will and purpose for your life is.