Use Of Our Time

Intro: What time is it? With this question we will normally look at our watch or a clock on the wall. We do so because we are time conscience. Often when someone thinks the preacher has preached long enough, he looks at his watch (or some other action hoping to bring the lesson to a close). Time is something we all have in common. It does not stand still regardless of how we use it. Once it is gone, there is no way to recall it. Additionally, our lifespan here on earth is limited in duration: Psa. 90:9-10 “For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. 10The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Thus the time we have in this life is precious. It behooves us to use it wisely.

I. We Are To Use Our Time Wisely
   A. Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
      1. How do we redeem the time?
         a. You cannot somehow save it and use it later.
         b. We are to make the most of our time.
      2. We are not to waste time.
   B. Eph. 5:15-16 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
      1. Circumspectly is from a word meaning accurately, carefully, giving careful attention to, diligently.
      2. Thayer says, “to live carefully, circumspectly, deviating in no respect from the law of duty.”
      3. By living according to God’s Word, guarding ourselves from falling into the temptations around us, we redeem the time.
   C. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”
      1. Paul teaches that we redeem the time by walking in wisdom.
      2. Wise behavior would be the doing of God’s Will in our dealings with others.

II. Ways We Can Use Our Time Wisely
   A. Studying God’s Word
      1. God’s Word is spiritual nourishment:
         a. Mat. 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
         b. 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
      2. 2 Pet. 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
      3. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      4. Some do not grow spiritually
         a. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
         b. We are to grow to the point of being able to teach others; Heb. 5:12-14 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”
   B. Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
      1. How do we redeem the time?
         a. You cannot somehow save it and use it later.
         b. We are to make the most of our time.
      2. We are not to waste time.
   C. Eph. 5:15-16 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
      1. Circumspectly is from a word meaning accurately, carefully, giving careful attention to, diligently.
      2. Thayer says, “to live carefully, circumspectly, deviating in no respect from the law of duty.”
      3. By living according to God’s Word, guarding ourselves from falling into the temptations around us, we redeem the time.
   D. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”
      1. Paul teaches that we redeem the time by walking in wisdom.
      2. Wise behavior would be the doing of God’s Will in our dealings with others.
that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

B. Spend time in prayer
1. 1 Tha. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”
2. 1 Tim. 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”
3. Prayers are to be directed to the Father through the mediatorship of Christ.
   a. John 16:23-26 “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. 25These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. 26At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you;”
   b. Eph. 5:20 “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”
4. We can ask what we will in accordance with God’s Word:
   a. 1 John 3:22 “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”
   b. 1 John 5:14 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us;”
   c. However, we cannot have improper motives in asking; Jam. 4:3 “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”
5. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

C. Set a proper example before others.
1. Rom. 14:7 “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself”
2. 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”
3. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
4. We thus are to let our lights shine; Mat. 5:14-16 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

D. Teach others
1. We are given the Great Commission to fulfill.
   a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   b. Mark. 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
2. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”
3. The early church recognized this need; Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
III. OUR FUTURE IN THIS WORLD IS UNCERTAIN

A. Tomorrow:
1. In one sense it will never be.
2. It certainly is not here and has not yet arrived.

B. There might not be any tomorrow.
1. Pro. 27:1 “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”
2. Jam. 4:13-17 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
3. We might die; Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”
4. Our Lord might come.

C. Every day brings us that much closer to our eternal destination.
1. To those in the church who might be coasting along:
   a. Rom. 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”
   b. Eph. 5:14 “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”
2. To those who have never obeyed the Gospel, there is no assurance of a tomorrow for them to obey.
   a. 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
   b. Heb. 4:7 “Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

D. Christ is coming at the end of time for Judgment.
1. He will deliver:
   a. The redeemed to their eternal home in Heaven.
   b. The ungodly to their eternal home in Hell.
   c. Mat. 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
   d. 2 Pet. 2:9 “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:’
   e. 2 Thes. 1:6-10 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power: 10When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”
2. No one knows where this time shall be.
   a. Mat. 24:35-36, 42, 44 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only…. 42Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come…. 44Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”
   b. Mat. 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
3. We cannot afford to allow anything to cause us to be lost in eternal torment.
   a. Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
   b. We must examine ourselves as to whether or not our allegiance to God is first and foremost.
      (1) 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
      (2) Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
      (3) He must come first.
         (a) Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
         (b) Mat. 22:37 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
   c. Mat. 6:24 “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.”

Conclusion: Our life on earth is but for a brief moment. Let us use our time wisely so we will be properly prepared for the day our Lord will judge all men.