

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 4:2-5**.
- B. Life consists of days, hours and minutes. In a calendar year there are 8,760 hours to be used. No more, no less.
- C. We need time for our families, work, church worship and activities and free time (recreation).
- D. Using time wisely is very important. **We are stewards of the time God has given us** (Eph. 5:15-16).  
*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*
- E. Who do you think accomplished more Methuselah (969 years) or X (33 years)?

## I. GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT TIME.

- A. Even though God exists outside of the dimension of time, He is concerned about time and timing.
- B. God sent Jesus at the right time (Gal. 4:4).  
*But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,...*
- C. God has told us repeatedly in His word that man's life is short (Job 7:6; 14:1-2; Psa. 39:4; 90:12).  
*(Job 7:6) "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And come to an end without hope."  
(Job 14:1-2) "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil. 2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain."  
(Psa 39:4) "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the extent of my days, Let me know how transient I am."  
(Psa 90:12) So teach us to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.*
- D. James teaches that our life is so short it is like a vapor (Jas. 4:14).  
*Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*

## II. SOME TIME WASTERS.

- A. Here is a statement that must be believed before you will become a good steward...  
**"Who is in control of my time?... I am!"**
- B. Let us look (and list) some time wasters:
  - 1. **Lack of organization**, if you fail to plan you plan to fail.
  - 2. **Failure to prioritize**, we generally do not have enough time to get everything done we would like to get done, so we must prioritize to get the most important things done.
  - 3. **Over-scheduling**, this is an outgrowth of failure to organize and prioritize. You have "Too many irons in the fire." Satan wants us busy doing everything all the time so we have time for nothing.
  - 4. **No flexibility**, which means we have such a crowded, hurried up schedule that if "the ox does go in the ditch" we can't pull him out.
  - 5. **Being unable to say "no."** We must realize that spreading ourselves so thin by trying to do everything will not work. Saying no is a big step toward getting more accomplished.
  - 6. **Our recreation**, TV, movies, family time is good but do we get more of this than what we really need?

## III. A WISE USE OF TIME.

- A. Remember, who is in control of your time?... **YOU ARE!**
- B. Let us list some things that help us to be better stewards of our time:
  - 1. **Begin each day the night before**, by listing what needs to be accomplished, the priority of each item and basically what time of the day will be spent doing the activity.
  - 2. **Begin each day with the Lord**, by Bible study and prayer. If this means having to get up a half hour earlier--do it.

3. **Have a goal or purpose each day.** If you aim at nothing you will usually hit it, prioritize!
  4. **Double up whenever possible.** Use time wisely by driving your car and praying at the same time or driving and listening to tapes. House-wives double-up at home the same way, while cleaning or cooking you can pray or listen to instructional tapes.
- C. **Make up a budget for your time.** We often have a financial budget which helps monitor our spending. Have a grid-type time budget so that every hour of your day can be used wisely.

#### IV. **SOME EXAMPLES.**

- A. **To students--**  
Plan your study habits, use every available minute at school, think of constructive things to do during the evenings for your family and for the church.
- B. **To the elderly--**  
Plan your day to in some way grow in bearing spiritual fruit. Schedule time for Bible study, telephone-encouragement, mail-order evangelism, and meeting benevolent needs.
- C. **To the working family--**  
Your job takes many hours therefore the time you have left is very precious. Hour stewardship here is a must. Plan, schedule, and organize so there is enough time each week for evangelism, family, and Bible study.
- D. **To mothers and housewives--**  
Schedule your time so that when the family is all home together you can be with them without feeling like you are behind in your work.
- E. **To husbands and fathers--**  
Be flexible with your time to help meet the needs of your wife and children. Put them first and then you will be satisfied with the time you have used wisely.

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. We are stewards of the time God has given us. We must use it wisely.
- B. Remember that God is concerned with time, He has used it well.
- C. Identify time wasters in your life and get rid of them. Organize, prioritize, and double-up.
- D. Remember 2Cor. 6:2.  
...for He says, "**AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU**"; behold, now is "**THE ACCEPTABLE TIME**," behold, now is "**THE DAY OF SALVATION**"--
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, for erring Xians.