

MAKING THE MOST OF CHRISTMAS

GETTING THE MOST *from* JESUS' BIRTH



Redeeming the Time
Ephesians 5:15–17

Introduction – One of the dangers at Christmas time is becoming overly ____: Filling our calendars with events, shopping, more shopping, and attending parties.

The day after Thanksgiving is called what? **Black** ____! And this past Monday (December 1st) was ____ **Monday**.

Well, today I would like to invite you to ____ **Sunday**, and here is the truth. We have nothing to sell you, but we have everything to give

The fact is, we can get so ____ shopping, decorating, baking, and driving from one event to another. We check our calendar, check our phones, check our lists... and in all that checking, we forget to check our hearts.

Ephesians 5:15-16 - See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Those are some powerful words — they literally mean “*buying up the _____*” making every moment count for eternity (Why? Because time is short).

God knows a lot about _____. After all, He created it!

So, allow me to share three “**Easy Peezy**” ways of doing this.

1. Recognize the _____ of Time – Ephesians 5:15

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.

The Greek word translated “*circumspectly*” literally means to “look _____ around.”

The Clock

Time is _____. Every second we have is a gift from God.

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

Galatians 4:4 - *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,*

And if we want to make the most of Christmas, we must recognize the _____ of **TIME** ourselves.

How many times have we wasted **TIME** chasing after _____?

Redeeming the **TIME** begins with **recognizing that every moment is a _____** Christmas is a vivid reminder that God values **TIME**, and so should we.

So, the first step in **redeeming TIME** is simply **recognizing it as God's** _____.

2. Refocus Your _____ **- Ephesians 5:16**

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

The Greek word redeeming (exagorazo) means "to buy up" or "to _____" — to reclaim what could be wasted.

The Story of Mary and Martha **Luke 10:38-42**

Listen carefully to what Jesus said to overextended, busy, stressed Martha, *"Mary has chosen the _____ part, which will not be taken away from her."*

Can you pause, make some _____ in your life for what is important?

Here are some things we might consider doing this Christmas season:

- Before you fill every evening with parties, shopping trips, and family obligations, pause and ask: _____ is Jesus in this schedule?" Please give Him more than one day.
- Create some "_____ moments" in your day for worship, reading an Advent devotional, or listening to some Christmas music.
- Make Christmas about creating family _____ and traditions. Memories and traditions that are passed down through generations.

3. _____ Every Opportunity – Ephesians 5:17

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Here are five practical ways:

- Plan an _____ night with your family.
- _____ someone to church who might feel lonely this season.
- Knock on a _____ door. Share some freshly baked cookies, and an invitation to SLBC.
- On Christmas Day, share the story of Christ's birth at your family dinner.
- Use your gifts and resources to _____ someone in need.

Redeeming opportunities is about _____, not just good intentions.

Conclusion: Church family, as we enter this Christmas season, I want to leave you with a challenge. Here it is:

Don't just _____ the Holidays (Christmas). _____ the TIME.

- Recognize the _____ of **TIME**.
- Refocus your _____.
- Redeem every _____ for God's glory.

Jesus came at the perfect _____, and He calls us to follow His example: intentional, purposeful, and God-centered. Glorify God this Christmas.