

Making the Best Use of Time

Ephesians 5:15-21

It's amazing how fast 2019 has come and gone!

What will 2020 have in store?

Today we are going to focus on TIME...

What a Year Looks Like...

Hours in a year **8,766**

Hours sleeping **2,922**

Hours on phone/TV **2,192**

The average person spends 8 hours/day sleeping...

The average person spends 3 hours/day TV...

The average person spends 4 hours/day smartphone...

Just those two activities account for over half of our year!

213 days sleeping and phone/TV

If we were able to bunch all our sleeping and phone/tv activity together, we would do NOTHING ELSE until...

August 2, 2020!

Remember, this does not include the amount of time spent

- working,
- getting ready each morning,
- eating,
- driving to and from work, etc...

ONE THING

Our use of time *DEFINES* our *LIVES* and *DETERMINES* our *ETERNITY*.

Matthew 12:36 (ESV) — I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) — For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Ephesians 5:15–21 (ESV)

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

We are given in this passage *FOUR STAGES* to Making the Best Use of Time

Stage #1 - INVESTIGATION

Ephesians 5:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Time is a limited resource each person is given.

What we do with our time will carry over into our eternity.

There are at least four ways people are using time.

Each of these uses of time are types of people described in Proverbs...

In fact, Proverbs divides people into TWO major groups...

The first three of the FOUR TYPES of people fall into the FIRST GROUP...

➤ **WASTING Time – The LAZY person**

The Lazy person!

Proverbs 13:4 (NLT) — 4 Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.

➤ **SPENDING Time – The FOOLISH person**

The Foolish Person

Proverbs 1:7 — ... fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:22 — ... fools hate knowledge

Proverbs 10:14 — ... the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Proverbs 10:21 — ...fools die for lack of sense.

Proverbs 10:23 — Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool ...

Proverbs 12:15 — The way of a fool is right in his own eyes ...

Proverbs 12:23 — ... the heart of fools proclaims folly.

Proverbs 13:19 — ... to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV) — ... the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 14:7 (ESV) — Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.

Proverbs 14:8 (ESV) — ... the folly of fools is deceiving.

Proverbs 14:16 (ESV) — ... a fool is reckless and careless.

In Luke 12, Jesus tells a parable...

- *It's about a rich man who spends all his time becoming wealthy here on earth...*

The rich man devises a scheme to live a comfortable life...

Luke 12:19 (ESV) — 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’

Luke 12:20–21 (ESV) — 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

➤ **ABUSING Time – The MOCKING person**

Proverbs 9:7 (ESV) — 7 Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

Proverbs 19:29 (ESV) — 29 Condemnation is ready for scoffers, and beating for the backs of fools.

Proverbs 21:24 (ESV) — 24 “Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

Proverbs 22:10 (ESV) — 10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

➤ **INVESTING Time – The WISE person**

The Wise Person

Psalm 90:12 (NLT) — Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Stage #2 - REVELATION

Ephesians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

➤ **The Lord does not HIDE His will FROM you, but FOR you!**

Stage #3 - IMPLEMENTATION

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

This is a CONTRASTING picture

“Under the influence”

“Under a controlling substance”

The Mind is Weakened vs Strengthened

Debauchery means “the loss of limits”

The Speech is altered

The Walk is different

The Personality is changed

➤ **Drunkenness is ESCAPING REALITY**

➤ ***Being filled with the Spirit is FULFILLING
DESTINY***

Alcohol is a depressant

Being filled with the Spirit is a stimulant!

***Being filled with the Spirit is not loss of control, but
“Self Control” (Gal 5:22-23)***

*Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — But the fruit of the Spirit is ...
self-control ...*

*John 4:14 (ESV) – But whoever drinks of the water that I will
give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will
give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to
eternal life.”*

*John 7:37–39 (ESV) – On the last day of the feast, the great
day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let
him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the
Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living
water.’ ” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who
believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not
been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Stage #4 - TRANSFORMATION

*Ephesians 5:19–21 (ESV) — 19 addressing one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making
melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always*

*and for everything to God the Father in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of
reverence for Christ.*

➤ ***An internal JOY expressed in external PRAISE***

*Ephesians 5:19 (ESV) — 19 addressing one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making
melody to the Lord with your heart...*

➤ ***An internal TRUST expressed in external
GRATITUDE***

*Ephesians 5:20 (ESV) — 20 giving thanks always and for
everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ...*

➤ ***An internal HUMILITY expressed in external
SUBMISSION***

*Ephesians 5:21 (ESV) — 21 submitting to one another out of
reverence for Christ.*

*Philippians 2:3 (ESV) — 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition
or conceit, but in humility count others more significant
than yourselves.*

December 29, 2019

Crossgates – AM Service

David Jett