

Choose to Give2 **“Time – the Currency of Life”**

My family has never been more acutely aware of the value of time as we are now. Maybe your family is the same. But usually we think about time in terms of doing things, scheduling, hitting deadlines and making appointments. My eight-year-old grandson, Nathan, always wants to know how long things will take to get somewhere every time he gets in my truck. How long will it be before we get to your house? How long will it take to get to the church office? How long will we be at the office? We rarely value time like that; we just spend it. We spend it because we don't understand that time is limited. When we understand that time is limited, we see it differently. Before we know it, our time is spent, never to be spent again.

Time is a gift given to us; and time is a gift from us. So that begs the questions: Who gave our time to us? And whom do we give our time to? Again, giving is a choice and we make choices everyday about where we give or spend our allotted time. When is the last time you thought about that?

Now in the second week of our **Choose to Give** series, last week we hopefully established that giving is a choice, not the impossibility that we often assign it. We are not accountable for what we do not have and thus cannot give, but we are answerable for what we do with the assets we do have.

This week, we look at the most valuable asset we have...our time. Time is the currency of our living. It is the one measure of the length of our life. But length of life is only one measure. What about the quality of our life? Some people unfortunately choose to shorten the length of their life because they fail to see the quality of their life.

-In proper perspective, we see that **life is a gift from God**. That means everyday is a new gift to spend on something. What is your everyday “something”? Yourself? Your happiness? Your dream? Your family? What about your purpose?

-James, the half-brother of Jesus, reminds us that our life, in the view of eternity, is like a mist, fog, or vapor. It's here and then, it's gone. It's true, the more life we live, the faster it seems to go (be spent).

James 4:13-15 NAS

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

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.

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

-Paul, an enemy of Jesus turned follower of Jesus, said that we are to make the most of our time, whatever that amount of time is.

Ephesians 5:16 NAS

16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

-This verse doesn't stand alone; it falls in the advice Paul is now giving a church about their individual responsibility to spend their time wisely. But spend their time wisely doing what?

Ephesians 5:15-17 NAS

15 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.

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

-Something drives how we spend our time. What is it that dictates how you spend yours? Financial obligations? What other people think? What other people need? Greed? Purpose?

-Knowing why you are here would give direction about what we should spend our time here doing.

-Do you have a money budget? Time budget?

-The overarching purpose of all our God-given time is to glorify Him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 NAS

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1. Time is given to us from God.
2. Time is to be spent ultimately by us for His glory.
3. Time is limited so how we spend it should be intentional.
4. Time is our "window of opportunity" to influence.
5. Time is a gift we can give to others.

Where in His Name are you spending/giving away His time?

Bottom Line - ***Time is a gift given to us; and time is a gift from us.***