

TODAY AND TOMORROW (PART 2)

Pastor Chad Gilligan | July 9, 2023

I. FOUR THINGS TO THINK ABOUT TODAY

- You will not know the value of today until tomorrow.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (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.

1. *Your Season Today*

- If you live in your yesterdays, they will fill up your todays and rob your tomorrows.

2. *Your Family Today*

- What you do not invest in today may end up being a crisis tomorrow.
- Don't let today's annoyance become tomorrow's regret.

3. *Your Purpose Today*

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 5:15-21 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

II. SEVEN KEYS TO PURPOSE TODAY

- Living full of purpose today creates a life of value tomorrow.

Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

1. *Wisdom*

- The enemy of wisdom is recklessness.
- Living with wisdom makes deposits today that can be drawn on tomorrow.
- A reckless life makes withdrawals from tomorrow to benefit today.

Ephesians 5:16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

2. *Opportunity*

- The enemy of opportunity is distraction.
- We are called to not just be faithful but to be fruitful.

Matthew 25:21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

Matthew 25:25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

- Sometimes we are distracted by playing it safe.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

- Sometimes we are distracted by misplaced priorities.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

3. *Discernment*

- The enemy of discernment is foolishness.

Proverbs 28:26 (NLT) Those who trust their own insight are foolish, but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe.

- The value of your input will determine the value of your output.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

4. Self-Control

Ephesians 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- The enemy of self-control is the counterfeit.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

- Counterfeit spirits will fill our todays and rob our tomorrows.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

5. Worship

- The enemy of worship is a critical spirit.

“When you come into this place, you will either worship or be critical of those who do.” — H. Maurice Lednicky

- Our words and our hearts reveal the reality of our purpose.

Ephesians 4:29-30 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- Critical words today tear people down tomorrow.

- Critical hearts today grieve the Holy Spirit and affect our spiritual tomorrow.

Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. *Gratitude*

- The enemy of gratitude is victimhood.
- If we do not look outward at our blessings we will look inward at our offenses.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

- Be careful not to forget what God has done.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

7. *Submission*

- The enemy of submission is pride.

Proverbs 18:12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

- Tomorrow's honor begins with today's submission.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- An absence of submission leads to conflict, exasperation, and frustration.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (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.