

“Be careful to make a good improvement of precious time.” (David Brainerd)

○ Christian: YOU MUST CHOOSE TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY!

- ✓ ‘I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.’ (Martin Luther)
- ✓ The [wisest] Christian has the best use of time for private prayer. (Thomas Brookes)
- ✓ Joseph Alleine was so busy that he would spend between 4-8AM in devotion and communion and prayer with God!

How you spend your discretionary (non-essential/leisure) time reveals your value system (=heart)!

*Background to Ephesians 5:15ff*

- Eph 1-3 = Calling; God’s **work**; **position** In Christ
- Eph 4-6 = Conduct; Your **walk**; **practice** in Christ.
  - \*\*organized by the phrase: “therefore...walk” [5x; 5.15 is the last!]
  - 4:1ff - walk in unity
  - 4:17 - walk in holiness
  - 5:1-2 - walk in love
  - 5:7-8 - walk as LIGHT [in dark culture]
  - 5:15ff - walk in WISDOM/walk in the SPIRIT.

**THESIS — This section of God’s Word calls you to be WISE and USE YOUR TIME WELL.**

**I. WHY YOU MUST REDEEM THE TIME!**

It is a **stewardship!** —

1. Time is **precious.** —

2. Time is **brief.** —

3. Time is **unknown.** —

4. Time is **irrecoverable.** —

## **II. HOW YOU MUST REDEEM THE TIME!**

1. **Know God.** — gain good knowledge (2 Pet 3)

2. **Serve Others** — do good to others (Gal 5)—

“Serve God by doing common actions in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill them up with holy service.” (Spurgeon) > your spouse preeminently; your kids intentionally; your church faithfully; God’s people sacrificially.

3. **Prioritize the Family.** — improve good livelihood for self & family (1 Tim 5)

4. **Prayer & Worship.** — prayer & self examination (Luke 11)

5. **Fish For Souls.** — evangelism/soul-winning. (Lk 24) — seeking the salvation of fellow men

### **III. HINDRANCES TO YOU REDEEMING THE TIME!**

Beware of these 10 time-stealers (Richard Baxter calls them: “Time Thieves”):

1. laziness [idleness/sloth] he calls it “UNMANLY SLUGGISHNESS” - Pr 15.19
2. excess of sleep - Pr 6.9-10 - sleeping *too much*; more than you need.
3. caring for the body (physical appearance)/exercise is good but of little profit; 1 Tim 4
4. worldly talk (temporary things that don’t matter) — 1 Chron 16 -speak God’s Name!
5. needless entertainment (amusing self with excessive, time-consuming things)
6. worldly cares and business (work is good; too-much work is bad)
7. vain, ungoverned and sinful thoughts (2 Cor 10.5; Phil 4)
8. reading/watching of vain time wasters (books, shows, movies) (Phil 4/Rom 12)
9. an unconverted, ungodly heart. [Luke 12: You Fool: this night your soul is required!]
10. worry and anxiety - cannot add 1 hour to your life (Matt 6)

“Every time the clock ticks, it seems to scream at us: “NOW!” NOW! NOW!  
NOW!” (Spurgeon)

### **IV. ETERNITY’S CALL FOR YOU TO REDEEM THE TIME!**

#### **Some of Jonathan Edwards’ resolutions:**

- ✓ #5. Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.
- ✓ #7. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.
- ✓ #17. Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.
- ✓ #19. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.

**Ephesians 5:15-17 — “Be Wise & Use Your Time Well!”**

- ✓ #50. Resolved, I will act so as I think I shall judge would have been best, and most prudent, when I come into the future world.
- ✓ #55. Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and hell torments.

“Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.  
(CT Studd)

**Applying & Implementing these truths:**

Remember the 4 “**R’S**” in valuing time:

1. **Reflection** - how am I using my time?
2. **Rebuke** - I’m guilty of wasting much time!
3. **Repentance** - God forgive me for squandering much time!
4. **Resolution** - By Gods’ grace & Spirit, I will make the best use of my time.

**David Brainerd (missionary to the Native Americans in the 18th century):**

- ✓ “Oh, I love to live on the brink of eternity.”
- ✓ “Oh, how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me feel when I think I have trifled away and lost it or neglected to fill up each part of it with duty to the utmost of my ability and capacity.”
- ✓ “Oh, that I might not loiter [delay/be lazy] on my heavenly journey!”