

3 - MINUTE SERMONS

THOUGHTS ON TIME

“Time” has measurable qualities: seconds, hours, days, etc. Genesis 1, plainly reveals that “time” was designed by God in relation to man. It is also obvious that God assigned certain activities to occupy much of this time given to man. Two passages of scripture pretty well cover man’s use of time: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (these verses tell us, “there is...a time for every purpose under heaven”; the second one is Ephesians 5:16 - “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” What ever may be said about this verse, it is obvious that it has something to do with the proper use of time.

Time can be precious: We are paid by the hour, the day, or week. We spend time sleeping, eating, exercising, working, etc. We often hear, “He spends money as if it grew on trees;” and, we understand that statement to mean he is wasting money, spending it on trivial things, or in general, squandering his money. Now, think of how we spend our time - How much of it is wasted, spent doing trivial things, thrown away, as if it was worthless! So, let us notice something of the proper use of our time.

Jesus offers us the first lesson on the use of time. “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38). This involved His seeking and saving the lost. Jesus never forgot His mission! Have you ever noticed how well He organized His time to accomplish His mission? In this regard, we see Him setting priorities (Matthew 6:33), His choosing of twelve to assist and to further His mission. He trained these men, preparing them well for the task ahead, then He puts them to work (Acts 1:8).

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,.....” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). So, we see that even the young are not exempt from accountability in this regard.

God has specified some things which make use of our time: Study (2 Timothy 2:15); prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17); attending services (Hebrews 10:25); imparting the gospel message to others (2 Timothy 2:2); and providing for our families (1 Timothy 5:8). The trouble is that we make the same mistake which Felix made, looking for a more convenient time to do what we know should be done (Acts 24:25).

There are, also, times in which we shall be tempted to do wrong. James says, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (1:14-15). We are told how to handle such temptations: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7); “Flee fornication” (1 Corinthians 6:18); “Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22). God has promised a way of escape for temptations; and, we need to remember that others, also, are experiencing the same temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13). In the very next verse we are told to “flee idolatry”.

Then, there is our leisure time. How do you use such time? Have you ever stopped to think of

how much leisure time you would have if you really did all that God says for you to do? Do you reckon that God knew that we needed to be kept busy with constructive things; that too much leisure time would breed wrong doing? We are told to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22); to be a good example of believers (1 Timothy 4:12); to put the kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33); and, to follow after those things which would edify another (Romans 14:19). Further we are warned that evil companions are corrupting (1 Corinthians 15:33). Proper use of leisure time appears to be a problem for a great many folks.

Procrastination is a thief of time. Time is perishable; at the end of the day it is gone! We are stewards of God's blessings (1 Corinthians 4:2); and one of those blessings is "time". Lost opportunities are lost forever (Matthew 25:1-13).

Finally, there is the time of our departure (2 Timothy 4:6); we have no assurance of another day (James 4:13-14). Time is for man, not God; and, man will live on even after this fleshly body has decayed. Where man dwells after this life depends on how he uses the time which God has given him here (Philippians 1:23; 4:6-8).