

Time Management

Living the way God wants us to live requires the proper consciousness, commitment, and management of time. Paul exhorted, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17).



What did Paul mean when he said, "walk circumspectly"? The word "circumspectly" (*akribos*) means "accurately" and "carefully." Walking "accurately" and "carefully" is our goal as Christians.

What did Paul mean when he said, "redeeming the time"? W. E. Vine said that the word "redeeming" (*exagorazo*) means "to buy up for oneself" or "buying up the opportunity." It suggests the idea of using our time and opportunities to the fullest. That is what we must do as Christians.

What are your plans? Are you planning to be steadfast and to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:17-18)? Those are worthy goals! Are you planning to worship God regularly (Hebrews 10:24-25)? That is a worthy goal! Are you planning to teach others about Jesus (Mark 16:15-16)? That, too, is a worthy goal! Are you planning on bearing fruit in His vineyard (John 15:1-8)? What a worthy goal! Are you planning to grow in the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-11)? Wonderful!

To do these things we must do three things: (1) we must "understand what the will of the Lord is," (2) we must "walk circumspectly," and (3) we must commit ourselves to "redeeming the time." We must align our priorities! We must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Time management is life management!

Dwight Fuqua, Findlay church of Christ, Sparta, TN (*Bulletin Digest*)

THE NEVER FAILING GOD

God's treasures never fail – Luke 12:33
 God's Word never fails – Joshua 21:45
 God's promises never fail – Joshua 23:14
 God's love never fails – 1 Corinthians 13:8
 God's compassion never fails – Lamentations 3:22
 God's faithfulness never fails – Psalm 89:33
 God Himself never fails – Zephaniah 3:5

- Author Unknown -

(Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola FL)

Time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all our possessions.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Nancy Cox and family at the passing of Nancy's husband, George. God bless and comfort this family at this time.

DISASTER RELIEF: Voluntary monetary donations are being accepted until the end of August to assist the recent flood victims in Kentucky. Give your donation to one of the Elders or Rico.

PANTRY ITEM: Macaroni & cheese

LABOR DAY COOKOUT: Monday, Sept. 5th, 1:00 p.m. at Thompson Park, Pavilion 1. Meats & soft drinks provided. Take your favorite covered dish or dessert and games. Sponsored by the Chester & East Liverpool congregations.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: Sept. 25-29 with Tim Hatfield. Plan now to be here for every service.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Gordon Todd, as he recovers from surgery.

SICK & SHUT-IN: *The Orchards Rehab, East Liverpool:* Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister). *At Home:* Linda Parkes, Becky McKitrick, Russell Martin, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Sam Burdine, Cheryl Renfro Walker. *Fox, Pepperry Suites:* David McCoy. *Weston, WV:* Rick Beck.

Reasons for Enduring Trials

When trials hit, we can do one of two things concerning our faithfulness to God: give up, or continue on. Paul knew what it was like. In fact many times in trials, he felt like he was between a rock and a hard place (2 Cor. 4:8), yet he continued remaining faithful to God. I believe that in verses 14-15 in the same chapter he gives us three reasons to endure trials.

He knew that trials, and even death, would not rob him of the crown of life. "...knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you." (v.14)

He realized that surviving his hardships were influencing others toward Christ. "For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many," (v.15a)

He was aware that He was glorifying God in enduring adversity. "...may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God." (v.15b)

Yes, enduring trials can be good for us and others. So when trials hit, hang in there and keep praising God!

Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*)

