

Time



"The year is made up of minutes. Let these be watched as having been dedicated to God! It is in the sanctification of the small that the hallowing of the large is secure."

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN



PRAY FIRST: What shall I give thee for all thy benefits? I am in a strait betwixt two, knowing not what to do; I long to make some return, but have nothing to offer, and can only rejoice that thou doest all, that none in heaven or on earth shares thy honour; I can of myself do nothing to glorify thy blessed name, but I can through grace cheerfully surrender soul and body to thee, I know that thou art the author and finisher of faith, that the whole work of redemption is thine alone, that every good work or thought found in me is the effect of thy power and grace, that thy sole motive in working in me to will and to do is for thy good pleasure."

Understanding the Truth

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1—*"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."* Question: If you were asked to explain time to a child, how would you define it?

Time Defined

When most people think of time, they think of hours or minutes or the time that it takes to go from point A to point B. However, *time* from God's point of view is related to *the opportunities He gives a believer to accomplish His will and experience His power.*

- A. Because of evil days, what does Ephesians 5:15-16 say should be our perspective in regards to time?

- B. According to Ephesians 5:17, what is a key element in making the most of our time?

In other words, when we know *what God wants us to do*, we should prioritize our lives so that we might accomplish all that God has for us.

Priorities

- A. Based upon your own knowledge and convictions, write down your top five priorities (not what you think they should be):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

- B. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What encouragement does Solomon give to us concerning keeping our priorities in order?

From a biblical point of view, to **put God first** does not mean that *there is something else second, third, and so on.* Putting God first means He is preeminent in every area of your life. However, if you need help in ordering your priorities, here are the Christian's top five priorities:

1. **God** (*Matthew 22:36-38; Ecclesiastes 12:13*)—This does not mean just feeling deeply about the Lord, but doing those things that demonstrate your desire to grow in your relationship with Him: spending time with Him, sacrifice, obedience, etc.
2. **Your Family** (*Ephesians 5:22-6:4*)—God created marriage and family to be the foundation of home life and social order. Society and the church stand or fall on the health of the family.
3. **Ministry** (*Romans 12:3-13*)—In your relationship with God, the emphasis is on what you are to Him and what He is in you. In your ministry, the emphasis is on what you do for Him and for others.
4. **Your Health** (*1 Corinthians 6:12-13, 18-20; 1 Timothy 4:8*)—What we mean here is not an over-emphasis on fitness and fashion, but a proper maintenance of God's temple so that He is pleased and you can continue to honor Him and help others.
5. **Others** (*Galatians 6:9-10*)—"Our greatest danger in life is in permitting the urgent things to crowd out the important."—Charles Hummel

As you compare your priorities with Biblical priorities, write down the areas that need adjusting:

Embracing the Truth

Knitting the truth of God's Word into our lives



In your relationship with God

- A. Spend time in *prayer* and *devotion* every day.
- B. *Plan your life* around the things that will keep God first in your life.
- C. Don't forsake *church attendance* and *fellowship*.

In the home

- A. Remember that it's not a matter of *perfect balance*, but recognizing when you go too far to the left or to the right and getting back quickly before you fall.
- B. Build this time into your schedule. Schedule a day on your calendar for your *spouse* and *kids*.
- C. *Ministry* and *home priorities* can go together. Doing ministry together as a family will help build memories and set an example for your children.

APPLICATION

Being a doer of the Word

1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?



ACCOUNTABILITY

Placing yourself in transparent and accountable relationships

How are you doing in the area of **HEALTH** and **WELLNESS**?

- Assess your eating and exercise this past week:

(Unstable) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Stable)

Obeying the Truth—your mission this week

Engaging the lost through word and deed with the intention of imparting the Gospel



- Visit a nursing home, hospital, or hospice to read or spend time conversing with families and patients.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Ecclesiastes 3:1

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."



EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE VAULT

Sproul, R.C. "Using Time Well". Ligonier Ministries. <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/using-time-well/>. Web. n.d.

Perman, Matt. *What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2014. Print

Time Defined

- A. make the most of it
- B. understanding the will of the Lord

Priorities

- A. answers will vary
- B. there is a time for everything

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.