

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON FOUR: REDEEMING THE TIME

I. INTRODUCTION

Among all the resources God has entrusted to man, time stands as one of the most universally distributed yet unequally used gifts. Every man whether rich or poor, young or old, all receive the same 24 hours each day. Yet the difference between a fruitful life and a wasted one often lies in how that time is spent.

Biblical stewardship is not limited to money, possessions, or talents; it extends deeply into how we use our time. It is God's command for His children to live with eternity's value in view and that certainly include the value of time. Apostle Paul wrote, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). This verse captures the urgency, and responsibility required of every born again Christian.

To redeem time is not merely to manage it efficiently but to use it in every way that glorifies God, advances His kingdom, and aligns with His sovereign purposes. This lesson will explore what it means to redeem the time God has given us, why it is essential in biblical stewardship, and how we as His children can practically live this out to the glory of God.

II. THE OWNER OF TIME

Biblical stewardship begins with the foundation and acknowledgment that God is the owner of all things—including time. The psalmist calls for God in Psalm 90:12 to "teach us to number our days," implying that our time is measured and governed by God.

Recognizing God's ownership of time transforms our perspective in our stewardship of time. Time is no longer something for us to "kill" or "pass," but something to spend and use purposefully and meaningfully all for the glory of God.

III. THE BREVITY OF TIME

The phrase "redeeming the time" carries the idea of buying back or making the most of every opportunity. It suggests urgency—like rescuing something valuable and not wait until it is lost. Time, once spent, cannot be recovered. Unlike money which can be earned again or possessions which can be replaced, time is irretrievable. Indeed, even the world recognizes that "time waits for no man." Therefore, God calls believers not to take time for granted but to use it purposefully for His glory.

Moreover, the Bible emphasizes the shortness of time in our life. James 4:14 describes life as "a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." This brevity should not lead to despair but to urgency. The limited nature of time demands careful stewardship of time.

The reality in light of the brevity of time is that life is often unpredictable. Opportunities before our eyes are fleeting. Death is certain of its occurrence, yet uncertain when it will occur. Because of these realities, procrastination becomes spiritually dangerous. Delaying obedience, postponing repentance, or neglecting spiritual growth waste precious time that may never return. Redeeming the time means living with eternity in view and making decisions today that matter forever.

IV. THE REALITY OF EVIL AGAINST TIME

Apostle Paul's instruction to redeem time is rooted in the reality that "the days are evil." This does not simply mean that bad things happen, but that the world is filled with distractions, temptations, and influences that pull believers away from God. Evil days consume time in unprofitable ways in the following: 1) Sinful habits waste time and damage the soul, 2) Worldly pursuits distract from eternal priorities, and 3) Idleness opens doors to temptation.

In such a context, redeeming the time requires prayer and obedience to God. Christians must actively guard their time against being swallowed by what is spiritually unproductive. This includes: 1) Discernment in entertainment, 2) Discipline in daily habits, and 3) Intentional focus on godly pursuits. Without deliberate effort, time will naturally drift toward waste rather than purpose.

Ephesians 5:15 connects redeeming time with walking wisely. Wisdom enables believers to discern what is truly important and matter to God. Wise time stewardship involves: 1) Knowing what matters most, 2) Making decisions that reflect godly priorities, and 3) Avoiding distractions that appear good but are ultimately unhelpful. Wisdom is cultivated through prayer and meditation on God's Word. Without it, even sincere believers may misuse their time.

V. THE PRACTICAL WAYS TO REDEEM TIME

Redeeming the time is practical and requires much discipline, diligence, and spiritual awareness. Prioritizing time with God is important. It is a foundational aspect of redeeming the time by setting aside regular time for prayer, meditation and reading of Scripture. This is not optional but essential. Neglecting time with God leads to spiritual weakness and poor stewardship in all other areas.

Every day should begin with a sense of purpose. Instead of drifting through the day, believers should always ask: 'How can I glorify God today? What opportunities has God given me?' Purposeful living transforms ordinary moments into meaningful ones. Not all activities are sinful, but many are unprofitable. Excessive entertainment, mindless scrolling of mobile devices, and idle conversations can consume hours without lasting value. Redeeming the time involves evaluating how time is spent and eliminating what does not contribute to spiritual growth or usefulness.

Do not let unused time slip away. Time spent well in serving others reflects Christ's love and fulfills God's purposes. Acts of kindness, encouragement, and ministry are powerful ways to redeeming the time. Opportunities to do good do not last forever. Redeeming the time means acting promptly when such opportunities arise.

VI. SUMMARY

Redeeming the time is a central aspect of biblical stewardship. It reflects a heart that recognizes God's ownership, values eternity, and seeks to live purposefully for Christ's sake. Each day offers opportunities how we may glorify God, grow in grace, and be a blessing to others by ministry and service.

The call to redeem the time is ultimately a call to live with Christ-driven purpose and intention. Life may be short, but it is sufficient for God's purposes when used faithfully. Therefore, let us be committed to this truth that indeed time is a gift from God, and how it must be used all for Him and for His eternal glory. Amen.