

"Redeeming the Time"

Part 1

Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction: In the section that we are coming to tonight Paul is going to address several areas of the believer's life. In verse 5 Paul is going to exhort his readers to redeem the time which they are allotted. There are 1440 minutes in a day and there are 525,600 minutes in a year. That sounds like a lot but they go by so quickly and once they are gone; we can never get them back. The average life span in the US today is 77.5 years.

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back." —Harvey Mackay

Time is limited for each of us.

Job 14:1, 5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

⁵ *Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*

Let us get to the verses before us.

➤ **The Believer's Prayer Life**

Notice Colossians 4:2

Paul exhorts his readers to continue in prayer. This has the idea of keeping a strong consistent prayer life. Prayer is a privilege that is given only to believers. When we pray, we are coming right into the throne room of God.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Because we have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ we can now come to God's throne of grace. Unbelievers do not have this privilege because their sin will not permit them to come into the presence of the Lord.

John 9:31

³¹ *Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

Isaiah 59:2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

Even as believers, if we get into sin it will hinder of prayer life.

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

As believers we have access to the throne of God and therefore, we can come to God anytime and lay our requests at His feet. When we pray in the will of God, we can be sure that He hears us.

1 John 5:13-15

¹³ *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

¹⁴ *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

¹⁵ *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

We must however remember that God answers prayer in His time not ours. We may pray for many years about a situation and never see any results. The results may not come about until after we are gone.

Revelation 8:1-3

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

² *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

³ *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

Here we see that God is about to answer the prayers of ALL saints. What does this mean? From Noah's day until this part of the tribulation many saints have prayed for God to bring judgment upon the wickedness in the world. These prayers were all saved for this moment in the tribulation.

Notice Colossians 4:2 again.

As we pray, we are to "watch" but what are we to watch for. The word "watch" means "to be alert or aware." In this verse the idea is to watch/be aware of spiritual drowsiness and spiritual distractions that come as a believer gives attention to the world. In the day in which we live today there is always the danger of being distracted by the world. This is something that we must guard against because to get entangled in the world and the business of life hinders us in the battle that we are in.

2 Timothy 2:1-4

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

We must be alert to the enemy also because he is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Notice how Nehemiah managed the threats of the enemy.

Nehemiah 4:6-10

⁶ *So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.*

⁷ But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

⁸ And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

¹⁰ And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

Let us understand that when we exercise a strong prayer life the enemy hates that and therefore, he will attack. He may fire darts of doubt, discouragement, depression, fear, and the list goes on. It is vital we keep in mind that we are in a spiritual battle and if Satan takes the time to attack then we are a threat to him.

We must watch for:

1. Temptation.

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

2. Drowsiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-7

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

3. False teachers.

Jude 1:3-4, 20

³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁰ But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

We are to pray and watch with thanksgiving also. Someone has said that thanksgiving is the oil that makes the wheels of heaven turn.

Notice Colossians 4:3-4

Paul requested prayer that he would have more open doors to share the Gospel and that he would have the right words to make the message clear.

➤ The Believer's Public Life

Notice Colossians 4:5

Now Paul addresses our public lives. We are to walk in wisdom toward the unbelieving world. But what does this mean?

1. We must be very cautious of what we say and what we do so that we will not in any way hinder the Gospel as it is proclaimed to the lost world.

1 Corinthians 9:11-12

¹¹ If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

¹² If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

Notice what Peter wrote to the believers under persecution.

1 Peter 2:20-22

²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

²² *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

To walk in wisdom toward the unsaved also means:

- 2. To be mindful of the opportunities to speak the Truth into the lives of people who are lost.**

We need to be praying for open doors and we need to be watching for those doors to open. The open door into a person's life may only be there for a short time and for that reason we must be willing to step through and reach out. This is why Paul reminds us to redeem the time.

Conclusion:

We will come back to this next week. In closing I want to share the words of Moses.

Psalm 90:12, 16-17

¹² *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

¹⁶ *Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.*

¹⁷ *And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*