

WISDOM #3 REDEEM THE TIME

Would you please take your watch off and place it where you cannot see it. Will you trust me with your time?

Something is more important than what time it is; it is **knowing how you are spending your time.**

Our goal is to live our life without regret. To do this requires that I ask, **“in light of my past experience, where I am now and where I’m going in the future, what is the wise thing to do?”**

Time = your life.

Some think time= your life. When time ends=no life.
Some think \$= life. You can have no stuff and still have life.

Remember what you said after the kids started coming? You said, “What did we do with our time before this kid showed up?”

ILL. I watched a video from 1989. We were at Bro. and Sis. Cox for a New Years Eve party. Shirel Strayhorn and Trish Strayhorn were kids with babies. Shekanah Palmer was a baby around everyone’s feet. Lloyd Weeks was a little chubby.

I looked young, weighed 180 pounds. This was one month before I had my heart surgery.

7 or 8 people in that video are no longer with us.

The Father has given us an allotment of time.

The question is “what am I doing with my time?”

“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.” meelia121 Harvey MacKay quotes

We must make the most of our time to avoid regret.

Ephesians 5 ¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. KJV

1. Small amounts of time consistently invested over a long period of time have great reward.

ILL. If we consistently invest small amounts of time in exercise, piano or guitar, marriage, kids, our spiritual life, bible study, savings etc.

People come to church a service or two and expect a lifetime of deposit to be made in them. If they keep coming there life will change.

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

The years teach much which the days never know.

2. Neglect in small amounts has no apparent immediate effect.

You can miss one day of work and not lose your job.
Workout and not lose your health.
Prayer and Bible study and not backslide.
One class you don't lose your degree.

3. Neglect of our time has an accumulative effect.

Will Rogers:

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

Neglect your marriage, kids, health, job, talent, etc. it will leave a reward of regret.

ILL. When I first started preaching I took **guitar lessons**. Do I play now? No. I missed to many practices.

ILL. Young people who get **big scholarships to college** Miss a class or two and the next thing you know they have lost the scholarship and end up with a large school bill or dropping out.

4. There is no benefit to the urgent things we allow to interfere with what is most important.

What did you do instead of prayer and bible study?

Work out?

Going to work?

Going to class?

Playing with the kids?

You went with some friends; you went to breakfast; you read the news paper? Add it up; what is it worth? You just hung out. Nothing

Whatever interferes with your targeted time has no value.

5. You cannot make up for lost time.

The time is gone and we have nothing to show for it.

You can cram for a test but you can't cram for a relationship with **your wife, kids, or God!** You must give them time. Somehow we attempt to make up the lost time with gifts for our kids, working out longer, etc. Father shows up and wants to be called Dad when he hasn't been there!

We will miss opportunities that cannot be made up. You cannot make up for lost time.

Ephesians 5 ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. NIV

Ephesians 5 ¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. KJV

This word “redeeming the time”, means get maximum value out of your time.

We can be busy and miss out on life's best. We look at a family and ask, “Why don't I have what they have?” We have not invested the time!

What is the wise thing for you to do with your time?
What do you need to stop doing?
What do you need to be doing to affect your future?

You know what it cost you the way you were raised. Good or bad. Learn and do what is best for your future.

What is the wise thing to do with your time?

In light of your future hopes and dreams.
In light of where you want to be spiritually,
Financially?
As a family?

What is the wise thing to do?

The flower that you hold in your hands was born today and already it is as old as you are. ~Antonio Porchia, Voces, 1943, translated from Spanish by W.S. Merwin

This is how quickly time escapes us.
What will you do with your time?

Paul speaks to us about our “now time”
Romans 13 ¹¹ This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. NLT

2Corinthians 6:2... “now is the time of salvation”