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Giving to God

Time and how we use it

Earlier in our discussions we determined that there are many things which we can give to God. Good stewardship begins with a proper relationship with God and our giving of ourselves without reservation to Christ. It proceeds with the yielding of our various skills, abilities and gifts for service to Him. Each of us has something to give and we should be excited about the prospect of service.

Although our skills and abilities may differ, there is one area in which we are all equal in what we can give - time. Each one of us has exactly the same amount of time. There are 1,440 minutes in a day and 168 hours in a week. We each have 52 weeks to get life done! No one has any more or less time than anyone else. The only difference we make is in how we use it.

Eph 5:15-17

Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ps 39:4-5

Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.

Ps 90:12

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Ecc 3:1-11

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What does the worker gain from his toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on men. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

1. The average person will live 70 years on this earth. See if you can rank the following in order of amount of time spent on each task.

_____ Church

_____ Working

_____ Traveling

_____ Eating

_____ Sick

_____ Getting Dressed

_____ Sleeping

_____ Playing

2. Take a moment to review the verse in Eph 5. Just like a clock has an hour hand, minute hand and second hand, Paul in this verse has three things which believers must do to manage time properly. What three things does Paul want us to do?

3. Paul desires that we take advantage of our time on earth, for life passes quickly. What are some things we learn from Ps 39:4-5 which can help us in managing our time and resources?

4. Take a moment to read Ps 90:12 and think about using time wisely. What would using time wisely mean in light of this verse?

5. We know that God has given each of us the same amount of time, yet we can be frustrated by our own lack of accomplishments. Paul reminds us in Eph to not be foolish in how we live. What kind of perspective does Ecc 3:1-8 provide?

6. We seldom understand any more than just a small amount of God's plan for our lives, and often are puzzled by the direction of our lives. We are frustrated sometimes by how slowly things happen. How does Ecc 9-11 help us?

7. What are some things we can do to make better use of our time and become better stewards of days God has allotted for us?