

Redeeming the Time

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16). It's difficult to comprehend the waste from watching television. The average American watches 5 hours of television per day. By the age of 21, a person will have watched about 38,325 hours of television. Calculate for a moment what you could do with even a part of those hours. 5,000 hours are what a typical college undergraduate spends working on a bachelor's degree. In 10,000 hours, you could have enough education to become a doctor, lawyer, or an engineer. In that same amount of time, you could have learned to speak several languages fluently. You could have learned to read the Bible both in the original Greek and Hebrew. You would have had enough time to walk completely around the world and written two books about it. We will give an account to our Creator as to how we have used our time.

A Picture of Today?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).

“It is a gloomy moment in the history of our country. Not in the lifetime of most men has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable as at this time. The domestic economic situation is in chaos. Our dollar is weak throughout the world. Prices are so high as to be utterly impossible. The political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty. It is a solemn moment of our troubles. No man can see the end.”

I suppose some might agree that the above is a true picture of today. However, it was first published in Harper's Weekly in October 1857. Let us not let the troubles and problems of today discourage us, but in everything pray to God. He will guard our hearts and give us peace.

Chronic Complainers

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Col. 3:15). “Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer” (1Cor. 10:10).

There was a chronic grumbler who couldn't find anything about which to give thanks or praise. Although financially he was a very successful farmer, because of a very sour attitude, no one enjoyed his company. Nothing seemed to please him. At the time of the potato harvest, the disgruntled farmer enjoyed a bumper crop. Wanting to strike a more cheerful note, an acquaintance suggested, “I understand you've had a tremendous season with potatoes this year. That certainly must be cause for rejoicing!” The chronic complainer never even smiled, but sourly responded, “The harvest has been good, but my problem is, I don't have any bad potatoes to feed my pigs.”

Have you ever heard anyone complaining because their freezer was too full, and they had no place to put anything? Have you heard someone complaining because their closet was too full to hang anything? Rather than complaining, let us have grateful hearts lest we be destroyed by the destroyer.

Half of Congregation Dies of Starvation As Sermon Goes 15 Minutes Overtime

RUSSELLVILLE, AR—Roughly half of the churchgoers at First Baptist Church of Russellville died of starvation Sunday after the pastor tragically went 15 minutes over his standard sermon time, local sources confirmed.

“We don't know if the pastor simply lost track of time due to passion while preaching the word of God, or if something more nefarious was going on,” police chief Dwayne Carroll told reporters Monday morning.

“It's hard to imagine that Pastor Frank did not notice the panicked glances at phones and watches, along with the thunderous stomach growls and moans of agony reverberating throughout the sanctuary within minutes after he began to breach his normal closing time,” the chief continued. “Whatever the case, he went well over his standard allotted time for delivering his message, and roughly

75 people in attendance simply could not hold out, succumbing to their hunger before the the end of the church service.”

Thankfully, the other half of the congregation was able to make a speedy exit as soon as they were dismissed, frantically rushing out the doors and flooding all local restaurants for emergency sustenance.

“Pastor Frank should have known the dire consequences of a church service going even a minute past its normal ending time,” one survivor noted to reporters. “I mean, people have to eat.”

Police Chief Carroll confirmed that the investigation is ongoing.” (Satirical article from Babylon Bee: <http://babylonbee.com/news/ 1/7/16>)

A Moments Wisdom

--Bread earned by the sweat of the brow is thrice blessed bread, and is far sweeter than the tasteless loaf of idleness.

--Average is just as close to the bottom as it is to the top.

--Contentment lodges more frequently in cottages than in palaces.

--It is more important to do what is right rather than what people think is right.

--Elbow grease gives the best polish.

--All of our days are like suitcases of the same size, but some people seem to be able to pack more into them than others.

--Learning to speak in three languages is less difficult that learning to keep your mouth shut in one.

--We cannot really know the Bible until we obey it.

--The longer the explanation, the bigger the lie.

--When praying, don't give God instructions. God listens to prayer, not advice.

--The church can preach, the school can teach, but it is the home that must convert the sermons and lessons into a way of life.

--If ignorance is bliss, then why aren't more people happy?

--Pain and suffering are inevitable, but misery is optional.

--The fool wonders; the wise man asks.

--No one ever injured his eyesight looking at the bright side of things.

--The greatest remedy for anger is delay.

--A great cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what we want in the long run for what we want right now.

--Discussion is the exchange of intelligence; argument is the exchange of ignorance.

--The gospel is for lifeboats, not showboats, and a man must make up his mind which boat he is going to operate.

--Agnosticism is not open-mindedness; it is culpable inaction.

--“The gospel is not a secret to be hoarded but a story to be heralded. Too many Christians are stuffing themselves with gospel blessings; while millions have never had a taste.” (Vance Havner)

--“The sun does not look less upon one rose in the midst of a thousand millions of other flowers than if he looked down upon it alone. And God does not shed His love less upon one soul while He loves an infinity of others than if He loved it alone.” (Frances of Sales; 1567-1622; Consoling Thoughts, ed. Huguet)