

## THE TWO WAYS “Redeeming the Time”<sup>1</sup>

Ephesians 5:15-21

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. KJV<sup>2</sup>

*The Greek word translated “redeeming” in verse 16 is exagorazo. Thayer defines it as follows: “to buy up for oneself, for one’s use to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase money by which we make time our own.” As fleeting a reality and concept as time is, it is nothing short of amazing that we are commanded to redeem it.*

*How are we to accomplish such a task? First of all, we need wisdom.*

Eccl 8:4-6

4 Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?"

5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him. NIV

*If we lack wisdom, we need to ask God for it as James 1:5<sup>3</sup> tells us. One of the first wise uses of time would then be **prayer**. We need to pray that we may interpret (1 Cor. 14:13 in application, not interpretation) the signs of the times, that we might recognize the time of visitation, and that we might stand in the time of temptation.*

### **The Signs of the Times-**

Matthew 16:2-3

2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern [NIV – interpret] the signs of the times?

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<sup>1</sup> For a fuller examination of this subject, refer to our series *Redeeming the Time: Practical Christian Living Inside and Outside the Space-time Continuum*.

<sup>2</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

<sup>3</sup> James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

*We need to ask the Lord to show us and make us understand the signs of our times.*

Luke 21:24-31

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

*Adam Clarke wrote his commentary on the Bible from 1810 to 1826. It is interesting to note his comment on verse 24.*

Luke 21:24

[Of the Gentiles be fulfilled.] Till the different nations of the earth, to whom God shall have given the dominion over this land, have accomplished all that which the Lord hath appointed them to do; and till the time of their conversion to God take place. But when shall this be? We know not. The nations are still treading down Jerusalem, and the end is known only to the Lord.<sup>4</sup>

*Note the view of the prophetic from hindsight. When Adam Clarke wrote this note, Israel wasn't even a nation. Jerusalem came under Israeli control at the end of the Six Day War in 1967. We might not know the day or the hour, but as the conditions prepare themselves for prophetic fulfillment, we can know that the times are approaching.*

Mark 13:28-37

28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

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<sup>4</sup> from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by Biblesoft

- 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:  
36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.  
37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Romans 13:10-14

- 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.  
11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.  
12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.  
13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.  
14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

*Jesus means light and day. His absence means nightfall. Let us not be found asleep when He returns.*

### **The Times of Visitation-**

Luke 19:41-44

- 41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,  
42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.  
43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,  
44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

*The word "visitation" in verse 44 is the Greek word episcopos. It means an inspection and is related to the term from which we get overseer or bishop. Jerusalem was being inspected and they didn't even recognize it. They failed to realize that they were being visited by the Lord. What could have been a time of refreshing became instead the beginning of the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecies regarding the day of visitation. Judgment overtakes us when we miss the day of grace.*

Matthew 24:43-51

- 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.  
44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.  
45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?  
46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.  
47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.  
48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;  
49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,  
51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;  
12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;  
14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.  
15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:  
16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.  
17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

*When the laws of men are in conflict with the laws of God, we ought rather obey God than man. But where there is no conflict, let us live under authority that we may convince gainsayers and not waste time on useless and unnecessary flesh battles.*

### **The Time of Temptation-**

*We need to be in prayer in order to stand in the day of temptation. And do not be deceived, the day of temptation will come.*

Luke 4:13

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. NIV

*The devil looks for opportune times to tempt us. It is his twisted way of trying to redeem his short time. He wants to take down as many as he can with him. We also are to look for opportune times to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring many to salvation. Depopulating hell's potential tenants is our mission.*

Luke 8:13

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

*We need to have the Word of God take root in our hearts that we not fall away in the time of temptation.*

Ps 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

1 Peter 5:5-11

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

*We are in a spiritual battle. Our enemy looks for an opportune time of tempting and makes supplication to bring us down (remember Job?). Praise God that our Lord stands in the face of the accuser and that by His blood and the word of our testimony we can overcome!<sup>5</sup> We need to pray for strength that we may take root and not fall away in the time of temptation. We need to pray for one another also, that we may strengthen the brethren.*

Psalms 32:6-7

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 62:8

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

*We are to be imitators of God (Eph. 5:1). God plans specific times; a schedule of the ages, if you will. The Father has set times and dates by His own authority (Acts 1:7). The age we live in, the nation we are a part of, and the ultimate redemption of Israel are all in His hands and firmly set in His plans. Since God has wisely set the ages in order in accordance with His plans, we ought also to be wise and **plan** to make good use of the time we are allotted.*

Acts 3:18-21

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

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<sup>5</sup> Rev. 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

- 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
- 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
- 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 17:26-27

- 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

Rom 5:6 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

- 1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
- 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)
- 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:
- 4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,
- 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;
- 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,
- 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
- 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;
- 9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;
- 10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Matthew 6:34

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

*Do not confuse worrying with planning. Planning is wise, worrying is foolish. We need to approach our planning in the right way with the right heart.*

James 4:13-17

- 13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:
- 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.
- 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

*We need to listen to the Holy Spirit and be directed by the Lord in our activities. This doesn't mean we sit by passively until "pushed" by the Spirit. No, we still need to plan and move ahead. If we are heading in a wrong direction, the Lord will let us know.*

Acts 16:6-10

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. NIV

*They didn't just sit around and do nothing until Paul had a vision. No, they obviously had a plan which they were attempting to follow and the Lord directed their path.*

*Concentrating on eternal matters will help us get our priorities in life straight. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

*Because the world is passing away, we need to hold God's scale of values in what we do and how we plan. There are things we give major blocks of time to that will not grant us any reward in heaven or advance the Kingdom of God here on earth. Our actions need to be weight in the balance of eternity to realize correct priorities.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-17

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

- 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
- 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
- 9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
- 10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.
- 11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.
- 12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.
- 13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.
- 14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.
- 15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.
- 16 And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.
- 17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

*We need to redeem the time. We need to pray, plan, and prioritize our lives that we may be to His glory in the day of visitation.*