

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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March 16, 2014

Order of Services

Sunday March 16, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Scott Thomas
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Bill Duryea
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Wydro
Assisting at the Table	Tom Dolan
Scripture Reading	Matt Grimaldi
Morning Closing Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Ralph Ruggiero

Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:30 pm
Thursday Morning Bible Study	11:00 am

Redeeming the Time...

The writing style of the apostle Paul is said to be one in which he conducts a discussion, at times more of a debate, on an issue, and then presents various practical duties to enforce the position he presents. The fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Ephesians are an example of the presentation of *practical values* and an exhortation to adopt them.

In these two chapters Paul presents a call to unity, drawn from the consideration of the "oneness" of God and of things associated to Him (Ephesians 4:1-16) ... an exhortation for the Ephesians to live a holy life based on the fact that they were not like other Gentiles (Ephesians 4:17-24) ... an exhortation to avoid the vices of anger, lying, licentiousness, and intemperance, but rather to live such that they showed in their lives particular virtues associated with saints. (Ephesians 4:25-32; Eph. 5:1-20).

The topic of this article is found in one of the latter exhortations, and, it seems all too relevant to our current times.

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJV)

See then that ye walk circumspectly - the word rendered *circumspectly* means *diligently*, and the idea here is, that they were to take special effort to guard against the temptations around them, and to live as they should.

Not as fools, but as wise - not as the people of the world live ... indulging in foolish pleasures and desires ... but as those who have been taught to understand heavenly wisdom, and who have been made truly wise.

How applicable are those words to us today? How needful is it for us to live daily with guarded focus to not fall victim to the many temptations to sin that are presented by the world?

The apostle Peter adds this exhortation:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Children of God are constant targets of Satan, and his objective is to cause our spiritual, and if need be, physical destruction. He opposes us when we seek our better interests ... he provides resistance to our efforts to do good, and especially when we propose to return to God. There is no more appropriate designation that can be given to him than to say that he resists all our efforts to obey God and to secure the salvation of our own souls. Jesus warned Peter:

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (Luke 22:31)

Redeeming the time - The word rendered here as *redeeming*, means to purchase or to buy up as from the possession or power of anyone; and then to redeem, to set free, as from service or bondage. The application here means, to rescue or recover our time from waste and to free it for use on meaningful and important purposes.

Because the days are evil – this statement can't be clearer!

The lesson here is that there are many temptations that would capture our attention and focus, and direct us away from a meaningful use of our time ... and even draw us into sin. So, as Christians we should be on guard against a sinful and unprofitable waste of time.

In Albert Barnes Notes on the New Testament he writes this of Paul's exhortation...

The sentiment is, that we ought to be solicitous to improve our time to some useful purpose, because "there are, in an evil world, so many temptations to waste it." Time is given us for most valuable purposes. There are things enough to be done to occupy it all, and no one need have it hang heavy on his hands. He that has a soul to be saved from eternal death, need not have one idle moment. He that has a heaven to win, has enough to do to occupy all his time. Man has just enough given him to accomplish all the purposes which God designs, and God has not given him more than enough. They redeem their time who employ it:

- (1) *in gaining useful knowledge;*
- (2) *in doing good to others;*
- (3) *in employing it for the purpose of an honest livelihood for themselves and families;*
- (4) *in prayer and self-examination to make the heart better;*
- (5) *in seeking salvation, and in endeavoring to do the will of God.*

The lesson here has both an earthly and spiritual application, for in both realms we need to understand the importance of always striving to do what is important, needful, and best.

At times it might be that none of the alternatives confronting us would cause us to sin, but we still need to ask ourselves the questions, "What is best?" ... "Am I making the best use of my time?" ... "Am I making the best use of the opportunities and blessings given me by God?"

Paul further exhorts...

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
(Ephesians 5:17)

It should go without saying, that when faced with obeying God or man, we should always choose obedience to God ... choose to do that which is Spiritual.

We truly live in trying times. Every day, and from many sources, we are subjected to temptations and influences that can appeal to our *lusts* and entice us to sin. (James

1:14) We must take advantage of every moment God gives us to be saved from "this perverse generation." (Acts 2:40 NKJV)

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Jordan Thomas ... Barbara Rhinehart (Bill Duryea's sister) ... Pete Ferencze ... Matt Grimaldi ... Kathleen Wydro's Mom ... Everett Guyton

For Wisdom and Good Judgment – The Leaders of our congregation ... the leaders of our nation

For God's Care and Good Providence – Bertie Baxter ... Our young people away at college ... Our young people here at Washington ... our members who are traveling ... the men and women in military service ... our congregation.

The Evangelist and Teachers We Help Support – Jon Focht – Tim Bunting – Scott Smelser – Dan Wydro

EVENTS AND NOTES

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 6TH.
- ⤴ THERE WILL BE A SESSION TO LEARN NEW SONGS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH AT 5PM. IF YOU HAVE ANY SONG YOU LIKE TO CONGREGATION TO LEARN PLEASE GIVE IT TO DERALD SANCHEZ.
- ⤴ OUR SPRING GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18TH – 20TH WITH PHIL ROBERTSON. PLEASE NOT THE DATE CHANGE!
- ⤴ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17TH – 19TH WITH JOHN ISAAC EDWARDS.
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.