

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. - Ephesians 5:15-17

WHY IS TIME IMPORTANT FOR US AS GOD'S PEOPLE?

1. Because God's plan is being worked out in time and the conclusion of the plan—the coming of the Lord Jesus—could happen at any time (Mark 13:32-33; Luke 12:40; Romans 13:11; 1 Timothy 6:14; 1 Peter 1:5).
2. Because God has given us responsibility to carry out His plan to make the gospel known in this world—and time to do that work is limited (Matthew 28:19-20).
3. Because as God's people how we use time God has given us to do His work now will affect us for eternity (2 Corinthians 5:10).
4. Because God commands us to be intent and urgent in using the time He has given us to know and do His will (Ephesians 5:15-17).
 - God commands us to “buy up / redeem the time” we have—to use it with urgency and intensity, take full advantage of every opportunity to fulfill God's will!
 - “buying up the time” is about making intentional choices to use the time we have for the most beneficial purposes in accomplishing what God saved us for!

KNOW: Time is a gift from God for which we are eternally accountable to Him to use for His purposes: to grow in His truth and to make disciples.

DO: Think carefully about using the time God has given you and make intentional choices in using that time for His purposes to grow in His truth and make disciples.

Next Week's Text: Esther 4:12-14

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. If I am eternally accountable to use God's gift of time for His purposes, how would that affect my use of time?
2. If I knew Jesus was going to return tomorrow, what would I do with the time I have until He comes? (Would my plan align with God's desires or be self-focused?)
3. What do I see is my part in fulfilling God's command to make disciples: Go to those around me? Go to those far away? Support those who go? Something other?
4. What intentional choices am I making to fulfill my part of God's command?
5. What are the most common ways I do not use God's gift of time more effectively to fulfill my part of God's command to make disciples?