

*read vs. 14-17.
and Col. 4:5-6*

I. Meaning of the text.

- A. "Making the most of the time." Rev. Stan. Ver.
- B. "Buying up the opportunities"
- C. Buying up those moments which others seem to throw away.
- D. Improve every moment of time, so that you may perhaps in a way regain the time you have lost.

II. Why we should do this. "Because the days are evil."

- A. We live in perilous days of an evil generation, and if the devil cannot get you to lose your soul, he will seek to get you to lose your next most precious possession -- TIME.
- B. Two ways of dealing with time: like artistic fountains that play with babbling water spouts; or, like men crossing the desert, who measure out their water drop by drop, knowing that the water is their very life.

III. How we can do this.

- A. See the context of this passage of scripture
 - 1. v. 17: "Understand what the will of the Lord is."
 - 2. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, Redeeming the time," Col. 4:5.
Eph. 5:15: "Walk circumspectly."
 - 3. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6
 - 4. "Be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18. (v. 14.)
 - 5. "Awake, thou that sleepest, Arise from the Dead."
- B. The Awful tragedy of lost opportunities
 - 1. Souls we will meet at the judgment lost because of our failure
 - 2. Service we could have given to help the cause of Christ.

Conclusion: It is all the more important that we redeem the time and buy up our opportunities now, in the light of the fact of the nearness of the coming of Christ.

the time will come when the angel of the Lord will stand upon the sea and upon the earth, with his hand lifted up to heaven, and swear by Him that liveth for ever, that time shall be no longer.

Revival
Making the most of the Time in a

1. Revival is a time of opportunity to be blessed in your heart.
2. Revival is time to lead others to Christ in a harvest of souls.
3. Revival is time to find ~~it~~ as your own Savior if you don't know Him.

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"REDEEMING THE TIME"—KJV
"MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME" — RSV
"MAKING PROPER USE OF THE OCCASION"

God has not called the average christian to retreat into a hermitage for a life of prayer and contemplation.

The Christian faith is both a sanctuary and a battle station, a fortress against the world and an outpost of God's reign squarely

WITHIN the world.

The primary meaning of the expression "Redeeming the time" is "not to waste time, but to fill it" with positive Christian living and witness.

Horatius Bonar write in a hymn:

"Fill up each hour with what will last;

Buy up the moments as they go;

The life above, when this is past,

Is the ripe fruit of life below."

Another meaning is suggested in the translation: "Making proper use of the occasion" or "Be alive to opportunities for personal witness." We are to sieze every opportunity as it comes,—the chance encounter, the unforeseen turn in the conversation, the unplanned incident which brings a Christian mind and a nonchristian mind into close contact. Be prepared for such oppurtunities, EXPECT them to come, and GRASP THEM when they do come.

For if you are a dedicated and sensitive Christian such moments will come.

A careless Christian will go on indefinitely, serenely believing that he never gets a favorable opportunity to "put in a good word for Jesus Christ." A sincere, committed Christian will find such opportunities on every hand, and will speak in a natural way of the faith that means so much to him.

II Many Christians will make excuses about never having any opportunities to witness personally for Jesus, and will claim that these verses do not apply to them, because the days are so evil, and the people are so wicked and unconcerned around them. But we Christians should not expect the days to be anything but evil.

It would be foolish for us to wait until the Kingdom of Heaven came on earth or for secular progress to lead to a spiritual Utopia. We must beware of the dangers of an age when Christians become secular-minded and declare the days "good" instead of EVIL. We must guard against any feeling that the church must always be "up to date" in the eyes of the world.

The Christian's motive for redeeming the time is the will of the Lord - not the condition of society about us.

This applies to every one of us wherever we are -- at work, in the factory, the office, the school or University, hospital, on the golf course, in every business transaction, or in the little courtesies on the street corner.

No occasion is too insignificant for redeeming the time.

For time is precious.

God takes it very seriously.

Jesus himself did not limit his activity to the synagogue or the temple.

He walked roads, and sat in fishing boats, and was a "friend of publicans and sinners."

His habit of taking religion into the secular world about him shocked many of his contemporaries.

But that is just what we are to do.

We are to witness to the love of God IN the world. But our witness should be gracious and with the right approach to others (See Col. 4:5-6).

1. The Bible does not treat lightly the tremendous topic of TIME.

III It speaks of those who "are cut down
out of time..."

...of "a time when the Lord may be found"
...of NOW, the fleeting present time,
as the accepted time and the day of
salvation,"...

...as "the time to seek the Lord,"
...as "high time to awake" from spiritual
slumber "and press with vigor on!"
for "A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown."

The Lord of all Life once looked over
the capital city of irreligious religion
and wept such tears as could have melted
like solder the sands below his
bowed head.

Feeling keenly the rejection of His offered
grace, and foreseeing vividly the siege
by legions of enfrenched Roman soldiers,
he cried out, "Thou knowest not the
time of thy visitation!"

So do people today pass through a time
of spiritual opportunities in churches,
knowing little of the enemy of their souls,
who is lying in ambush for the day of
retribution when the little castle of their
Christless life shall fall so that there
shall not be left even one stone upon
another!

And a weeping, broken-hearted Savior says
"How often would I have gathered you to
myself for protection and security,
as a hen gathers her little chickens,
But you WOULD NOT!"

God's eternal book speaks of "times of
refreshing that shall come from the
presence of the Lord."

How gladly we sing....

"There shall be showers of blessing:
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons of refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above."

But we forget that this "precious reviving
again" comes only as we add:

"Now as to God we're confessing,
Now as on Jesus we call!"

The scriptural preface to the promised
"times of refreshing" is the command
"Repent ye therefore, and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out."

When will our churches ever learn the
divine lesson that there can be no revival
without repentance
and no spiritual victories without sacri-
fice?

And neither can there be any buying back
of lost opportunities without paying the
price of genuine commitment.