

# Priorities and Use of Time

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## I. Introductions, Workshop Goal

Goal ... stimulate some “thinking” and encourage “long term planning” regarding your view of TIME and your priorities.

Agenda ...

- ✓ Explore the nature of Time from the Scriptures
- ✓ What Priorities should I have?
- ✓ Setting Goals ... in light of my Priorities
- ✓ Some tips on Evaluating my time use



## II. The Nature of Time



1) **Psalm 90:9–12 (NASB95)** *For all our days have declined in Your fury; We have finished our years like a sigh. As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away. Who understands the power of Your anger And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.*

**Basic Facts about Time, 1) We all have the same amount of time. 2) We have all the time we need.” Gene Warr**

- **Life is brief** – we have a limited amount of time on this earth and every day which passes cannot be recaptured ... 70-80 years.

**1 Chronicles 29:15 (NASB95)** *“For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.*

**Psalm 103:15 (NASB95)** *As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.*

- Age 59 – 11 years left to age 70 (4,015 days)
- 1 month = .075% of the remainder of my life. Each year = 9%.
- 84% through my life expectancy. 16% left.
- “Teach us to number our days” – we **can Learn** how to manage our time (even if it doesn’t come naturally).
- **Time conscious.** Each day is individually important and should count.

**Today is the first day of the rest of your life!**

2) **Ephesians 5:15–18 (NASB95)** *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time (ESV “making the best use of the time”), because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

- **Wise use of time is wisdom. Wasting of time is foolishness!**

What is the Nature of Time?



✓ Redeem the time = proper use of time

- Proper use of time is integral in our understanding and fulfilling the **Will of God** for our lives.

✓ Why ? We have a finite amount of time to accomplish God's rich and diverse purposes for our lives.

3) **Colossians 4:5(ESV)** *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

- We need to be good stewards of our time – create a positive testimony among the unsaved world.

✓ Employers and those we are responsible to!

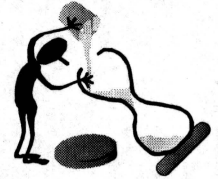
**Ephesians 6:5–7 (NASB95)** *Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,*

4) **James 4:13–17 (NASB95)** *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

- Our life is temporal like a vapor – soon it is gone.

**Psalm 144:4 (NASB95)** *Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.*

**Proverbs 27:1 (NASB95)** *Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.*



- We are responsible to do what we know to be right ... proper use of our time is a God given responsibility. To miss use our time is sinful in God's eyes.

5) What is time?

- **A Measure.** "A Lifetime".

**Webster Collegiate Dictionary** – time is a measured or measurable period during which an action, process or conditions exists or continues.

**Time-out** →

**At the same Time** →

**Just in Time** →

- Time cannot be stored, deferred or delayed.
- Time becomes significant when ... it is used.



6) Whose time is it?

- Who created time defines who owns it?

**Heb 1:2 (Amp)** "But in the last of these days He has spoken to us in the person of a Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time that is, He made, produced, built, operated and arranged them in order."



### III. Priorities and Eternal thinking about my Life

#### A. What are our Priorities? ...



#### Jesus as example

**Luke 2:52 (NASB95)** And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB95)** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith

...

#### 1. Our daily fellowship with Jesus



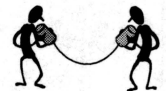
**Matthew 6:33 (NASB95)** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Matthew 6:33 (NLT)** Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**Matthew 6:33 (The Message)** Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

#### 2. Family – Wife and children → Emotional, Spiritual, Physical needs

**1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)** But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



#### 3. Work or ministry – vocation – both are in fact ministry

**John 3:6 (NASB95)** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

"It is not the nature of what we are doing that determines its spiritual content, but the origin of where it comes from." Gene Warr

- If God has called you to secular career then that is spiritual.

"The spiritual becomes secular when done for the temporal, but the secular becomes spiritual when done for the eternal." Walt Henrichsen



**4. Recreation → “Re-creation” – reinventing yourself by letting down, restoration to health, restore, refresh.**

**Exodus 23:12 (NASB95)** “Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.



**Luke 6:12 (NASB95)** It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

**Matthew 14:23 (NASB95)** After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

**Luke 9:28 (NASB95)** Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

**5. Social Life - Public service**

**1 Corinthians 7:23 (NASB95)** You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

**B. Set Goals ...**



**Apostle Paul**

**Philippians 3:12–15 (NASB95)** Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

- Let go of the past – it is behind you.
- Look forward at his life goal...
- while working in the present



**“If you are going to be effective in the present, you cannot be hung up on the past.”**

What Goals should we set?

**1) Plan your Life Goals – Life Purpose Statement**

**Paul’s Life Purpose Statement ... Philippians 3:7–10 (NASB95)** But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

**The Navigators ... To Advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.**

**“To know Christ and to make Him known”**



**My personal mission statement → Identify, recruit, train, equip, support and sustain a multiplying O2disciplemaking ministry in the context of the B&P community with the**

purpose of developing a large number of spiritual reproducers and multi generational leaders, as fast as possible.

**How do you develop a Life Purpose Statement (a personal Mission) ?**

**1 Corinthians 1:9 (NASB95)** *God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*



- 1) **God centric - What has God laid on your heart regarding His eternal purposes?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) **Scriptural Based - What Scriptures has God given you that confirm His calling on your life? (Isa 60:22, 2 Tim 2:2)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) **What areas of Faith and believing God describe your passions?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) **Where does your gifting lie?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) **How has God enabled you to be fruitful?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Learn to differentiate between the urgent and the necessary. The need is not necessarily the Call.

**2) Areas of Goal Setting ?**

**a) Personal goals – Spiritual goals**

**Romans 8:29–30 (NASB95)** *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

**b) Mental & Intellectual goals**

**Philippians 2:5 (NASB95)** *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

**c) Physical Exercise & Recreation (Hobby) goals**

**1 Corinthians 9:26–27 (NASB95)** *Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*



**d) Social & Community goals**

**Luke 2:52 (The Message)** *And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.*

**e) Family Goals – our wives & each child**

- **Our Wives** – what do they require to remain Physically, Mentally (Intellectually) and spiritually fit?

**1 Peter 3:7 (The Message)** *The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.*

- **Children** – set specific goals for the friends, character development, social development

**Ephesians 6:4 (The Message)** Fathers, *don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.*

f) **Job and Ministry goals**

- **MORATE** – Mission? Opportunities? Resources? Activities? Time Table (schedule)? Evaluation



g) **Financial Goals**

- ✓ **Have a Monthly (weekly) BUDGET.**
- ✓ **Give and financially support the ministry that God has blessed you to be part of, where you are spiritually helped, and that which has eternal and strategic value.**
- ✓ **Savings Plan ... Unexpected, Car replacements, Home, Retirement,**
- ✓ **Build a Margin**

**Deuteronomy 8:18–20 (NASB95)** *“But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. “It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. “Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.*

## C. Plan and Evaluate Often ...

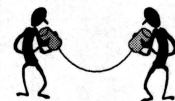
**2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB95)** *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!*

**1 Corinthians 11:28 (NASB95)** *But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

“Many people today are incapacitated by the paralysis of indecision”

### How to Plan Productive Self Examination?

- 1) Plan, in advance, a weekend retreat as a couple. Get away from it all
- 2) Have a "Plan" for the planning time. Have an outline.
- 3) Schedule it. Put it on the calendar as any other event.
- 4) Have a Written Plan so you can look back, take notes on goals renewed.
- 5) Unhurried time. Avoid distractions.
- 6) Set the stage for quality communication with spouse.



### 4 Questions to Use in Evaluation ...

1. Am I using my time according to my priorities?
2. Did my use of time please God?
3. Did it help others?
4. Did it help me?

