

# Six Bible Perspectives Regarding Time

## Introduction - 3 Min

Not Technique  
But perspective

Not prescribing do this or that  
But provoking thoughts

Time is an area of stewardship  
Every area of our stewardship bears evaluation

Consider this an annual review for time

## Outline - 4 Min Each

### Let God Teach You Reality & Wisdom - Psalm 90:9-12

[Ps 90:9-12](#) 9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. 10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. 12 So teach us to **number** our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

- First, an **Accounting** - The Reality of our Days
  - We were designed to live forever with God, in the garden, tree of life
  - In God's Wrath against sin, we now live outside of the garden, our lives are cut short
  - Ps 90 contains multiple examples:
    - 1000 years like yesterday, or just a watch in the night (4 Hours) - vs.4
    - Man's life is like a sleep, or like grass that gets cut - vs.5
    - A tale that is told, something fleeting that comes to an end - vs.9
  - Popular book called 4000 weeks / 52 weeks per year = 76.92 years
  - Moses gives a clear number, 70 years, perhaps 80
  - We have to understand how short our lives truly are!
- Second, an **Application**
  - He asks God to teach an important lesson, "Teach us to number our days"
  - Numbering our days reminds us that ***Even a full life is a fleeting life***
  - You might say, "I'm young" or "I'm in my prime!" or "I have years left"
  - First, you have zero guarantee that you'll be alive tomorrow

- Second, There's no wisdom in sticking your head in the sand
- Look reality fully in the face, acknowledge it, and let it humble you - Ps 39:4
- Let it drive you to Wisdom

Seek God for a proper **accounting** of our days and the right **application** of our hearts to wisdom.

## Live Day by Day - Matt 6:33-34

Do you ever get overwhelmed? It's that heart-pounding, frustrated, dizzying moment when it's like everything comes upon you at once. I'm doing one thing, but golly I need to finish cleaning up all the mess from Christmas, and there's more leaves to clean up in the yard, and the mail is piling up, and I need to take the car to get an oil change, and I have 37 emails in my inbox, (Some of y'all have a lot more than that), and I forgot to sign up for that event at church, and I haven't read my bible in two days, and I promised to my son that I would help him with his kit from Christmas, and I promised my daughter that I would take her on a date, and I promised my wife that I would fix that thing in the house.

Is anyone with me... Overwhelmed. Why? Is it not because we're taking on all issues from today, the mistakes of yesterday, and the commitments from tomorrow and trying to manage them right now.

God's word narrows the scope of our focus.

[Matt 6:33-34](#) 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 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.

This passage is great to commit to memory. It helps us get ahold of what matters now. Instead of trying to give ourselves to the upholding all the things, we can get focused and actually make progress. There's one primary thing in our lives, seeking God today, trusting that he will provide for us, and then addressing today's evil and honoring God in how we live today.

- God's **mercy** takes care of yesterday's evil
- God's **grace** sustains us in today's evil
- God's promised **presence** secures tomorrow.

Instead of taking it all on right now, honor God with what you have right in front of you, trust him with the rest, then move to the next.

## Approach Each Day Redemptively - Ephesians 5:14-16

Join me in Ephesians 5 as we consider our third point perspective. This section of scripture hinges on our identity in Christ. We are to be followers of God, dear children of God (v. 1), saints (v. 3), and

children of light (v. 8). Because we aren't darkness or in darkness, we can wake up, smell the coffee, and live wisely in an evil world!

[Ephes 5:14-16](#) 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The idea of sleeping in scripture can mean one of three things which are discerned by the context of a passage. Either natural sleep of rest, the dead Christian's body awaiting resurrection (1 Thess 4:13, 1 Cor 11:30), or spiritual slumber. In this passage, like in Romans 13 where we'll visit later on, it is the third, spiritual slumber. It is not being **alert** to what matters and not being **active** in the work of God.

A believers new **Identity** leads them to a new purpose.

You are fundamentally different at your core than most other people in the world. Your values aren't (or shouldn't) be the same. Your view of life is (or should be) transformed. Your actions must be different! Wake up, pay attention to what God says matters, and walk wisely in this world. You have a brief time until Christ returns or you go to be with him. So **redeem** the time!

Let's talk about what that means. Have you heard of extreme couponing? It used to be a show where people would go to the store with a pile of coupons and buy \$500 worth of stuff for \$10 after all the coupons. It sounds too good to be true, and depending on who you ask, it might be. Couponing is still alive and well, (though maybe not very effective) I saw on a forum where someone posted a 5 transaction process at two different stores to spend \$141.44 to purchase: 5 bottles of dish soap, 5 bottles of laundry detergent, a pack of paper towels, 2 boxes of kleenex, another bottle of detergent, a box of cereal, two tubes of toothpaste, and two packs of bottled water.

That sounds like a headache to me, but to the couponer, they are redeeming offers that others overlook. They are squeezing every dime out of every coupon, every offer, every cashback, every rewards program.

Let me put it this way, those coupons go to waste when they expire, unuseable ever again. So do our days and hours, once they are past, they cannot be used ever again.

Evil days, a short life, are to be used by children of light to make much of Jesus. It might look crazy to people without Christ, but to us it is wisdom to use our days for the Lord.

Pastor and Commentator Jon Courson says:

Redeem the time by bringing the Lord into all you do. Anything we do that doesn't have a spiritual texture to it is a waste of time. <sup>[1]</sup>

Purpose to make wise use of the time God has given you, Watch out for time wasters, Sleepy activities that throw away the time God has given you.

Redemption takes what would be **wasted** and gives **usefulness**

Though the days are evil, they **can** through wisdom and God's power be redeemed for a useful and holy purpose.

## **Submit Every Plan to God's Will - James 4:13-17**

An principle that influences all of our lives is stewardship. Typically that word is associated with money. If we have a "stewardship campaign" you know that's christianese for, "We're going to talk about giving money" But in reality, the word stewardship is a much broader, more noble term. It is the idea that we are not owners of our lives, time, and possessions, but we are actually managers and God is the owner. It's a word that highlights our responsibility to use every domain of our lives in a way that honors him.

One of the most important ways we do that is by submitting our plans to the Lord's will.

[James 4:13-15](#) 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.

The first thing we must note: *Our days are, above all things, most certainly **uncertain**.*

**Planning** is not wrong, it's wise! However, to make plans **without** acknowledging the Lord is evil. We should make wise plans, no doubt, but we should trust the Lord with our steps. He sets the course, he writes the story, and we must trust him in that.

I would point you back to a fantastic message Pastor Trent preached in August 2024 called, "Ye ought to say, if the Lord will" where he shared three key points:

- The fleeting nature of life and our uncertainty about tomorrow should keep us humble. v.14
- Even with our limitations, we often drift into godless planning, and this is a subtle evil. v. 13, 16a
- We should speak and live with a humble awareness of God's will for our lives. v. 15

Our days are in God's hand, let us recognize him every day as we make our plans, and live these lives.

## **Develop Spiritual Fervency - Romans 13:11-14**

Many productivity writers have studied the lives of successful people and highlighted a common theme that many of them share. It's called an "action bias". Instead of waiting around for things to be different, they got up and went after whatever goals, plans, or ideas they had.

While, I'm not suggesting that to be gospel truth, I do want to note that it's generally recognized, and also shown in scripture that there's times when we need to get on the move. Romans 13 is our next passage and it's a wake-up call.

I was originally going to call this point, "Develop a healthy sense of urgency" but I think "fervency" is a better word.

This passage is similar to Ephesians 5 where we were challenged to wake up and redeem the time, living purposefully. Here, the emphasis is slightly different, this is the passage of urgency.

[Rom 13:11-14](#) 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.

Paul begins, "Knowing the time" - Do you know the time?

What time is it? Regardless of the hour of the day or the day on the calendar, today is one day closer to meeting Jesus face-to-face. "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" Jesus said that his days were the "last days." If that is so, perhaps we should consider our days the last, last days. Jesus return is closer every moment. It's time to wake up! The alarm has gone off, are you snoozing it!

Here, Paul doesn't do anything but remind us of the basics. Throw away the works of darkness, put on the armor of light! Walk honestly! Don't walk in the darkness of sin, foolish, unwise, fleshly living.

Three questions:

Are you **awake**? (Spiritually)

Are you casting off **evil**?

Are you putting on **armor**?

Can I say this: It's not like with this crowd on Wednesday night I need to tell you what you should and shouldn't be doing. You know what is right. You know where God is leading you. I don't need to tell you what time it is. You know it's time to get up, get the sleep out of your eyes, and press forward.

But we do need the reminder and encouragement to actually do it!

What is it that is keeping you from living fully awake, fully alive to God's purpose for your life? Is it that you've not cast off the works of darkness? You're holding to some secret sin, unacknowledged, unconfessed, unrevealed?

Is it that you've not disciplined yourself to put on the armor of light? To walk in the word? To make prayer a habit?

Is it that you're given to some evil listed here? Rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness.

Throw them away, don't let them lull you to sleep. Love Jesus. Follow Jesus. Serve Jesus. Now, is the time to follow Christ. Not tomorrow. If you haven't prayed today, don't wait til tomorrow morning. If you haven't read your Bible today, don't put it off. If you haven't confessed some sin that you've been toying with, don't wait til Sunday, confess it now!

Wake up! Put on the armor! Live with urgency!

## **Never forget, One thing is Needful - Luke 10:38-42**

This last point is going to sound a little bit contrary to the previous. In Romans 13, the alarm is going off, the drill sergeant is coming in, and telling us to get moving. In this passage Jesus says to a busy, hurried, type-A Martha, be careful that you don't get moving so fast that you miss what's most important.

[Luke 10:38-42](#) 38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42 But **one thing is needful**: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Martha and Mary were sisters who had very different personalities. Martha was likely a very practical, hospitable, hard-working woman. Mary seemed to be more emotional, thoughtful, whimsical even.

Jesus and his followers have come to their home and Martha starts to get irritated in all the work of hosting. Not that she doesn't love to host or that she wants a break. It just seems so unfair that she's busy serving plates of food, and Mary's busy sitting listening to Jesus.

Finally, Martha brings it up to Jesus, expresses her frustration, and Jesus responds: "*Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42 But **one thing is needful**: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

He recognizes that Martha is troubled, annoyed, but he points out that Mary has chosen something good, and she doesn't need to change what she's doing right now.

Martha didn't do anything bad! However, she was in danger of neglecting and discounting what is **best**.

I'll summarize with a line from the book *Crazy Busy*, Jesus response isn't a summons to live like a monk, "But it's a pretty strong reminder that we had better keep first things first."

And this line, "If you are sick and tired of feeling so dreadfully busy and are looking for a one-point plan to help restore order to your life, this is the best advice I know: devote yourself to the Word of God and prayer."

## Conclusion - 3 Min

We've covered a lot of ground tonight and I want to encourage you as we close, there's more here than we can set in order one night. You might be excited about the prospect of a new year, ready to dig in and add all these things alongside every other goal that you have for the year.

You might be a bit overwhelmed even on day one, week one of the year. I have all these things I have to do, there's things I want to do, and now you're giving me six more principles to live by!

I don't mean for these things to go on your list of goals and resolutions. In fact, people often tend to make more progress when they focus on fewer things at a time. A couple goals or developing one habit at a time. I heard a pastor talk about how his aim each year is to develop one habit so that it becomes automatic. Over the years he's developed many good habits.

Perhaps you might do this: as we close, speak to the Lord about one of these principles and ask him to help you grow this year as you walk with the Lord each day and use each day for his glory.

Pray:

A - God you gave us this day, all of our lives, all of this time is in your hands, you are over it all

C - Forgive us for the many times when we've moved through life asleep, not redeeming the time, spending it in foolish, wasteful, even evil ways

T - Thank you for forgiveness and that you graciously continue to give us new days with new mercies, with new purpose, until you call us home.

S - Help us Lord to seek you each day. Help us to be satisfied in you. Help us to trust in you and rest on your renewed mercies every day.