

Title: Redeeming the Time
Text: Ephesians 5:15–17
Call to Worship: Psalm 102
Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-21
Theme: Live obediently unto the LORD.

March 22, 2020

Introduction:

Those who have been with us recently know that we are a small congregation that is supported by the financial gifts of several other churches. It has been our prayerful goal that if it would be the will of God here in 2020, we will arrive at a financial position where we could decline that financial support so that it could be sent to other gospel endeavors around the world. We are taking intentional steps toward this goal. We are praying specifically, we are seeking people to disciple, and we endeavoring to reshape our priorities match biblical patterns. The message this morning is regarding those priorities, namely, how we use our time. We will see that in the in order to use our time wisely, we must live obediently unto the LORD.

I. Live Wisely. v.15

A. Living Wisely Means Discerning What Wisdom Is.

1. Wisdom is Begun with a Right View of God.

Proverbs 1:1–7; James 2:19

2. Wisdom is Broadened with a Right Value of God

Proverbs 2:1–15

3. Wisdom is Bestowed by our Righteous Victory in God.

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

B. Living Wisely Means Doing What Wisdom Says.

1 King 3; 1 Kings 11:1–8

II. Live Effectively. v.16

A. Living Effectively is Making the Best Use of Our Time.

Colossians 4:5

1. Investing our Time for Eternal Fortunes.

Matthew 6:19–21

a. Exalt

b. Evangelize

c. Edify

2. Not Wasting Time on Foolish Endeavors.

B. Living Effectively is Motivated by the Evil of Our Time.

Ephesians 6:13; Romans 13:11–14

III. Live Obediently. v.17

A. Living Obediently means Discerning the Will of the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2

1. It is the Lord's will that you be saved.

1 Timothy 2:1–4; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11. Paul gave his life to preaching this message, Acts 20:18–21. The writer of Hebrews says this is foundational to Christianity, Hebrews 6:1.

2. It is the Lord's will that you be sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3; See also Romans 6:19, 22; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:2

B. Living Obediently means Doing the Will of the Lord.

James 1:22–25; John 5:39; Matthew 7:21, 24–27; Luke 8:21; John 13:17; Romans 2:13; James 2:14–20

Conclusion:

The lockdown here in America due to the corona virus is in full swing. Recently, a video was made by a menagerie of pop culture icons singing John Lennon's 1971 hit song "Imagine."

After hearing it, my thoughts were: "imagine people who would trade all the glories of heaven for a little peace on earth." Foolish humans hear this song and cheer. "Yes! Let's imagine that there is no God, so that we can live in ignorant, foolish peace." Foolish living, leads to futile living, which results in a godless life and then eternity. Instead, we must live wisely, so that we may live effectively, so that we will live obediently unto the LORD.