

## **TIME: A MATTER OF PRIORITIES**

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The most valuable commodity in one's possession is time. Because one's time is limited to "threescore years and ten" (Psa. 90:10), the quality of time spent far exceeds concern over one's quantity of time. Elapsed time cannot be retrieved and such statements as "where did the time go" attest to the elusiveness of time.

One cannot "save" time or "make" time as many inaccurate statements suggest, but one's use of time can be arranged to reflect individual priorities. In the context of the disciple's view of worldly things, Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Mt. 6:24-33). Spiritual matters must take precedence over the physical placing great demand on one's utilization of time.

One must take the time to become a Christian. As Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come," Felix responded, "When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). Like Felix, some don't take the time to become a Christian, but a more "convenient season" may never come.

One must take the time to teach others. In the context of unity and humility, Paul emphasizes the need to express concern for others rather than being consumed by one's own affairs (Phil. 2:4). Such concern can be expressed by teaching the gospel. As the song written by James Rowe and J.W. Gaines suggests, how disheartening for the Christian to hear, "You never mentioned Him to me."

One must take the time to prepare for judgment. In the parable of the ten virgins, the lamps of both the wise and foolish virgins were burning, but the five foolish virgins failed to take the time to make the necessary preparations (Mt. 25:1-13). Is your lamp burning? If so, how much oil is in your lamp?

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16).