

**Take TIME for Christianity!**  
Ephesians 5:15 and 16

**Introduction:**

Have you ever regretted how you spent a day?

Maybe you have stated, “I don’t think I have accomplished anything today”?

Upon evaluation, people may conclude any of the following:

I have wasted a day.

I have wasted the best years of my life.

I have wasted so much time watching TV, playing video games, looking at my phone, and spending time with the wrong people, being in the wrong relationship, or working in the wrong career.

We have the best of intentions to be better when it comes to managing our time.

We know that we choose how we spend our time.

We also choose the thoughts we consider when we think about how we have spent our time.

By way of reminder: Today comes only once! Use it wisely!

Instead of focusing on the time wasted, reinforcing regrets, delaying more action, or creating more pressure, think about the results you desire and act from a place of joy.

Ephesians 5:15 and 16 are the reset needed, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

We must be careful about our conduct.

People living in the light of Christ must behave like wise people.

Wise people apply Christian wisdom to practical matters of conduct. [Notice Ephesians 5:15-16!]

Making good use of our time involves seizing and using every opportunity to show God-honoring conduct.

We need to take time for Christianity!

**I. Take Time for Truth and Trust.**

Jesus said in John 8:32, “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Knowing the truth about God revealed through Jesus Christ takes time.

The Devil is a liar who has convinced people to desire what he desires, which is contrary to God’s will (John 8:44).

In the immediate context, Jesus is telling the people they want to kill him because they have believed the devil’s lies and the word of Jesus did not continue in them.

They believe they are not in bondage because they are descendants of Abraham, but Jesus says, “Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”

No one can be free from sin because of a connection to Abraham.

“If the Son (of God) makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Believers must come to know Jesus who is the truth.

Accepting, believing, and continuing in the truth, in Jesus, makes a person free.

Proverbs 3:5 instructs learners to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.”

Seek God’s will in everything because our own understanding is not enough to help us.

We must rely on God, depend on Him, and have confidence in Him so that we turn from evil.

Learning the truth and putting our confidence in the truth, trusting the truth to make us free takes time.

## **II. Take time for Integrity and Influence.**

The LORD told Satan about Job, “He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause” (Job 2:3).

Job was blameless or faithful in following truth and trusting God (Job 1:1).

Satan was wrong about Job when he stated, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You (God) not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face” (Job 1:9-11).

Job continued to be blameless or faithful despite his trials of losing his livestock and those who cared for them, as well as his sons and daughters.

The time to build up our understanding of truth and support our trust in the Lord is in the days before trials come.

The influence we have upon people around us is highlighted in 1 Timothy 4:12.

Our integrity allows us to affect the character, development, or behavior of someone without force or pressure.

Therefore, as Paul stated to Timothy, “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example [for] those who believe.”

Having integrity and providing influence takes time learning truth and establishing trust.

## **III. Take time for Meditation and Maturity.**

The righteous person’s “delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

To be fruitful with the integrity and influence we desire based on truth and trust, we must avoid following the advice of the wicked, stay away from imitating the example of sinners, and keep from joining scoffers in making fun of religion or of God.

The godly person takes pleasure in reading and obeying the Law of the LORD where he learns truth, increases trust, plants integrity, and sows influence.

“Let us press on to maturity” as the writer states in Hebrews 6:1.

The Scriptures make an appeal for action.

Believers are to move toward teaching which is appropriate for those who are mature.

Turning from sin toward God starts the development for good use of our time, but we must continue to pursue God beyond the elementary teachings about the Christ.

Meditation upon God’s Law and gaining maturity in its teachings that will establish our integrity and influence based upon truth and trust take time.

## **IV. Take time for Endurance and Eternity.**

Endurance comes through facing trials that purify and temptations that strengthen, as James 1:1-8 explains.

Trials and temptations produce perseverance and maturity.  
God will someday give the crown of life to those who successfully endure.  
When we need wisdom, we need to ask God in faith and trust Him because wisdom will not be given to a faithless person.

As we endure, we are looking ahead to eternity.

Colossians 3:2 exhorts, “Set your mind (meaning be intent) on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth.”

“Aim for the true values which are to be found in the realm of the glorified Christ, who shares in God’s glory.”<sup>1</sup>

To be in union with Christ means to share in his death, burial, and resurrection, his glorious position at God’s right side, and his final coming in power.

Endurance takes time and eternity is longer than anything we endure here on earth.

Take time for endurance now by desiring what God has for us in heaven so we will experience eternity with Christ.

### **Application:**

Many well-intended parents look back on the raising of their child(ren) with regrets about how they spent their time.

They find that their child is or children are now focused on the things that kept them away from being active in the church when they were little.

I have never had a parent say, “I wasted time going to worship. I wasted the best years of my life being involved in evangelism, outreach, service projects, mission work, or the likes of these.”

Nor have I heard parents say they wasted time reading or studying with their child(ren), spending time with fellow Christians, working on their relationship with Jesus, or pursuing the calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Indeed, as W. D. Longstaff wrote in 1882,

“Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word.  
Make friends of God’s children; Help those who are weak,  
Forgetting in nothing His blessings to seek.

Take time to be holy, The world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret With Jesus alone.  
Abiding in Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be,  
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, Be calm in thy soul,  
Each tho’t and each motive Beneath His control.  
Thus led by His Spirit To fountains of love,  
Thou soon shall be fitted For service above.”

If we take time for all the academic achievements, the athletic accomplishments, the musical performances, but fail to take time for Christianity what will our child(ren) pursue?

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<sup>1</sup> Robert G. Bratcher and Eugene Albert Nida, [\*A Handbook on Paul’s Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon\*](#), UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1993), 74.

## **Conclusion:**

Do you want to go to heaven?

Do you want your child(ren) to go to heaven?

Do you want the guests among us to go to heaven?

A coach said, "Instead of focusing on winning the National Championship, I train my players to focus on what's directly in front of them."

Christians focus on what is directly ahead of them—JESUS (Hebrews 12:2 "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God)!

Look at Jesus and keep looking at Jesus!

He has opened to us the way to trust and brings us to the goal—the throne of God.

Before we enter the very presence of God, there are difficult times ahead for us, as there were for Jesus, but if we hold on to our faith, we will share the joy of His victory.

To share the joy of Christ's victory, we must become fellow heirs with Christ.

Romans 6 explains that believers have been crucified with Christ and resurrected with Christ.

Therefore, the believer is now both dead and alive.

Dead to their sin.

Alive in the Savior.

The believer's crucifixion and resurrection took place at his/her baptism (vv. 3 and 4).

If we choose to sin, it leads to death.

If we choose to obey God, we receive His approval.

Our body is to be presented as instruments of righteousness or slaves to righteousness "resulting in sanctification" (our being dedicated to or set aside for God's purposes).

In this, we have a connection with God the Father making us His children and receive an inheritance from the Father as children or "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:15-17).

Have you taken the time to be baptized and become a "fellow heir with Christ"?

Not only is this the best use of anyone's time but it is the only way to obtain salvation.

Take care of this timely matter this morning.

If you have not made the best use of the time God has given you, repent and surrender to His will for your life.

Take time for truth and trust, integrity and influence, meditation and maturity, endurance, and eternity.

Take time for Christianity now so there will be no regrets, on your part, at the judgment!