

**Matters of Life Series**  
**IT'S A MATTER OF TIME**  
**By Steve Chupp**  
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**The Big Idea**

Matters of life matter to God. The Bible gives us great teaching on how we can be good at marriage, parenting, time, and money. We never seem to have enough time. Time is a gift God entrusts to us and then lets us choose how we spend it. Wise use of time doesn't mean cramming everything in, but getting the right things in. Wise use of time makes an eternal difference.

**2 Peter 1:3** *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. NIV*

**Use of Time**

In a lifetime, the average American will spend:

- Six months sitting at stoplights
- Eight months opening junk mail
- One year looking for misplaced objects
- Two years unsuccessfully returning phone calls
- Five years waiting in line.

*(Priority Management, Inc. poll, Reported in U.S. News & World Report, 1/20/89. Leadership, Vol. 10, no. 3.)*

**We live in a fast-paced, highly complex society.**

- Fatigue and time pressure are constant companions.
- Movies and commercials make busy people seem like important people.
- The Bible never places a premium on busy-ness.

**Jesus was never in a hurry, never frantic.**

- Of course he wasn't married with children!
- He also lived a called life, not a driven life.
- We need to live such a life and help our children to do the same.

**Romans 12:2** *Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Msg*

**God does not live in time and space – except through Jesus.**

- He created that for us.
- And he wants to teach us how to live there.

**1. Redeem the time.** (John D. Telgren, [epreacher.org/sermons/11-19-06am.html](http://epreacher.org/sermons/11-19-06am.html))

**Ephesians 5:15-17**

- *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of [redeeming] your time, because the days are evil [difficult, desperate]. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*
- *So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do. NLT*

“Redeem” (Greek) =

- To redeem, deliver, purchase freedom for a slave, rescue
- **Redeem = to deliver your time from captivity**

**What does a life look like where time is held captive?**

- Clutter - House, desk, car
- Appointments are missed, tasks are undone, commitments are broken
- You invest energy in unproductive tasks
- You feel poorly about your work – beat yourself up, look over your shoulder
- You rarely enjoy intimacy, even with God
  - Don't have time for relationships
  - Loved ones usually not as demanding as boss, clients
  - Don't have time for intimacy with God
- At the mercy of people who make demands of your time
- Surrender to the demands of all emergencies
  - "We are governed by the tyranny of the urgent"
  - What is urgent may not necessarily be the most important
  - What is most important doesn't get time

**Redeeming time, or time management, is really self management.**

- How can we do that?
- **Psalms 90:12** *Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom. NLT*

**2. Know why you're here.**

- God has given you a purpose.
  - **Ephesians 1:11** *It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Msg*
  - Let God define who you are and what you are to do.
- Your life should be lived on purpose.
  - Understanding your purpose helps you know what to say yes and no to.
  - Don't live life randomly.
  - Live by your purpose in life.
  - Successful people, churches, organizations, and businesses know their purpose or mission.
  - If you don't have a goal, you never know when you get there.
  - Or what to set aside along the way.

- Your purpose (mission) statement sorts out what is important to you.
  - And what you should give your time to.
  - Let your mission help you sort out what you do with your time.
- Don't live life defensively.
  - Don't just react to what life and others throw your way.
  - Live life proactively.
  - Go after your purpose.
- Jesus knew and communicated his mission.
  - **John 4:34** Jesus said, "*The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started.*" Msg
- My mission includes being a child of God, a good family man, an effective church and Kingdom leader, and a servant to the community.
  - My gifts are in speaking, goals, processes, analysis, development.
  - I am not as gifted at accounting, administration, detail...
- Read or review *The Purpose-Driven Life*.

### 3. Determine your **priorities** by your purpose.

- Get your big 3-5 priorities right.
  - Jar exercise.
- Try this exercise. (*God is in the Small Stuff*, Bruce & Stan, p 107)
  - At the end of the day write down everything you did.
  - It could be 100 things.
  - Next, rank your activities by the following scale: (Richard Foster)
  - 1 – Essential
  - 2 – Important but not essential
  - 3 – Helpful but not necessary
  - 4 – Trivial
- Take a look.
  - How much time was spent on the trivial?
  - What are your current priorities?
- Start out tomorrow making God and his Kingdom your first and overarching priority.
  - **Matthew 6:33** *Your heavenly Father will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.* NLT
- **Live your priorities in **tension**.**
  - Be careful about strict priority lists.
  - God, family, job, self...
  - Life is lived in tension rather than strict hierarchy.
  - Wayne Cordeiro, "the principle of the fulcrum."
- Ask yourself throughout the day "what is the most important thing for me to do *now*?"
- **Balance work, play, and worship.**
  - Examine these over a period of a week or month.
- **What is your **Facebook** factor?**
  - Facebook is a great social network.
  - And it can be a big time waster.
  - Facebook time BFF, LOL
  - Texting, video games,

- Everybody has a Facebook factor.
  - Something that steals your time, drains your time, wastes your time.
  - Take it back.
  - 1 Timothy 4:7 *Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness.* NLT

**4. Random time concepts that will work for you.**

- Identify your rhythms.
  - Discover your high energy times of the day.
  - Are you a morning person?
  - What part of the day, week, month, year are you the strongest?
  - Save your mundane tasks for low energy times.
- Take energy breaks about every 90 minutes.
  - Leave your work space, eat some fruit, take a walk, stretch.
- Redeem “lost” time.
  - Ill., my three hours of driving kids around
- Understand the difference between the urgent and the important.
  - Important/urgent combinations
- Caution: your energy naturally flows to your weaknesses.
- Are you project oriented or time oriented?

My action plan:

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