

**"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)**

www.oakhillministries.org ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
NOVEMBER 8, 2011

“Reflections on Time”

“Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?”
(Psalm 89:47)

“Lord make me to know my end and what is the measure of my days, That I may
know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age
is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor.”
(Psalm 39:4&5)

“So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
(Psalm 90:12)

When I was a young boy thoughts concerning “time” were not found in my mind, and when I became a young man, married and on my own, “time” was not a subject that thought was given to. As a father, businessman, and civic leader, I never applied myself to considering the issue of “time”, and its relationship to life. Then one morning while shaving, I looked into the mirror and the fruit of time looked back at me --- I woke up!

“Life” for man is measured in “time”. From conception, each of us is allocated or given a measure of time -- from birth ---- to death (Eccl.3:2) ---- our days are measured by, and given to us, by our God and Father; and just as no man knows the day nor hour of our Lord’s return to earth ---- so it is in knowing the number of his own days ---- he knows them not. The days or time that each of us is given, is the subject that I am focused on, and have asked Father for a greater revelation of. Please take a few minutes to prayerfully consider the following:

The measure of time given to man is the most precious gift that he or she has. Its value cannot be measured in human terms; and it cannot be bought at any price. It is a free gift, only given by God Himself, who is Life (John 14:6). Truly, in this dispensation, Life and time are “one” for man.

If man’s greatest gift from God is time, then it stands to reason that his greatest “stewardship” responsibility ---- before God ---- is that for his allotted time. Brother Peter addressed this issue of stewardship in 1Peter 4:10, and Christ Himself, had much to say on the matter in Luke 16:1-13, as well as in Mathew 25:14 thru 30. Clearly, man’s stewardship over that which God gives him, is a serious matter; and one which will

determine the measure of spiritual growth (or lack there of) that he or she experiences. To neglect this spiritual truth, is to invite the disfavor of God, and guarantee the loss of His blessing.

When I think of “time” and our use of it, I cannot help but compare our use of money that we have received. If a man were given \$1,000, and he knew that his one thousand dollars was all that he would ever have, I believe he would count every penny, and only spend what he had to spend to maintain, improve, or extend his life. No doubt, he would give a whole new meaning to the term “tight”.

I am confident that if each of us knew for certain, that whatever financial resources we had at this very moment, was all that we would ever have for the rest of our life, that we too would change our spending habits. We too would be conscious of every penny spent, and what we spent it on. No doubt watching over our financial resources would become a top priority in our lives.

Many of us (myself included) have not been very good stewards over our financial resources, for a lot of reasons; mostly due to covetness, greed, and just plain old “self satisfaction”. However, I believe that there is an underlying cause for this sin, and that is the belief or hope that the money spent, will eventually be replaced. In other words, there will always be more. Debt and financial destruction are conceived in this environment; and all too often lead to sorrow, sadness and even death. Brother James, in his Epistle, addresses this evil nature, when he wrote: **“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.” (4:13-16)** “Presuming” upon the future, whether it concerns money or time, is not only foolish, but it is “evil” in our Father’s eyes.

Unlike money, which may very well be replaced, “time”, once spent, will never be replaced; it becomes a part of our history. Our history, hour by hour, day by day and year by year, tells the story of how we spent Father’s gift of time ---- His gift of Life. Sadly, much of the time we spend, while believing it to be, if not well spent, at least is not wasted, is actually time wasted ---- squandered ---- thrown away. Personally, as Father has opened my eyes and ears to this spiritual truth, I am ashamed of how much of my life and time I have thrown away ---- utterly wasted. As this revelation continues to expand within my heart, I have been compelled to repent for having been such a poor steward of my time; and I thank God, that He is quick to forgive those who listen to Him, and turn back to His way ---- the ancient way, where His blessing is found.

How we spend our time will determine our future, both now in this life, and eternally. Our physical, mental, emotional, financial and spiritual health is greatly influenced by how we spend our time. Time well spent, is time sown to the spirit; this would include all matters physical, mental, emotional, financial, as well as spiritual. Father, has much to say concerning all matters of life; and time spent seeking His counsel, as He speaks through His word, and our silence, is the most rewarding time that we will ever spend. We must never forget ---- **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”** (Matt.4:4). By the same token, we must never forget ---- **“whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption”** (Galatians 6:7&8). Time spent sowing to our flesh, in opposition to Father’s word, guarantees us “corruption” in some form or another. Define “corruption” as you will, but one thing is certain ---- It is not good news. Time spent sowing to our flesh, our own affections (2Corn. 6:12), is time wasted.

There are so many examples that I have seen, of how we professing Christians waste time, as if it had no value, and was never ending; but time and space do not allow me to discuss them. However, there is one common trait that seems to have infected most of us, myself included; and that trait is one of , if not the greatest cause of our waste of Father's gift of time. That trait is our use of words---- our conversations. Every time that we open our mouths and speak, or lend our ears to the words of another, we are at the same time ---- spending our allotted "time". In the course of a lifetime, think about how much time we spend in conversations, compared to the time spent in work or in watching sports, a play, reading or Bible study, etc. I have a very strong feeling that our time spent in conversation with ourselves, and others, makes up the most time spent while awake. Certainly, it is at the top of our list of "time spending" activity.

At this stage of my journey toward eternity, with the measure of Father's word that He has allowed me to hear and receive, I am appalled at the shallowness of conversation within the ranks of we professing believers in Christ. We love to engage ourselves in conversations pertaining to politics, sports, hobbies, our family ---- especially our children and grandchildren. We have much to say about movies watched, books read (not the Book) or our latest vacation trip. Much of our conversation is focused on our job or latest business deal; and of course we seldom leave out the weather, or our latest medical experience. Rarely do we spend more than a few fleeting moments discussing the One thing needed, that cannot be taken from us (Luke 10:38-42) ---- the very thing that will soon judge each one of us and determine our eternal future (John 12:48) ---- the Word of God. Without question, the majority of our time spent in conversation, is "earthy" and well suited for the world in which we live; certainly it is not suited for heaven, where it would be considered a foreign language; nor is it suited for His Kingdom and government found in the earthen vessels of His sons and daughters, who presently are walking the earth.

I am not suggesting that we should never "spend time" discussing the earthly topics listed above. To do so, would be abnormal. All of those things are a part of our life, and as so will be part of the time we spend in conversation. However, when those topics dominate our conversation time and account, for the vast majority of that time, it marks us as worldly, and spiritually shallow at best, or at worst, spiritually dead.

Paul told us in Colossians 3:2 to: "**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**" It naturally follows, that where ever our mind and heart are, is where our tongue will soon be heard. Jesus, said so Himself in Matthew 12:34, when He spoke, saying: "**For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**" We must never forget, that man's heart rules his tongue; and his tongue exposes his or her true nature. Whatever our tongue burns the most time speaking about, paints a word picture of who we really are. I warn you, dear reader, do not fail to hear what our Father has to say in this matter, if you desire to be numbered among the "few chosen" to be with Christ (Matt. 22:14).

In Matt. 12:36&37, our Lord speaks these words: "**But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment . For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned.**" As our Lord's words fall into the deep soil of the heart , taking root there, and reproducing after It's own kind ---- His own, will be heard crying out ---- "*May God, have mercy on me. My lips and heart are unclean. Circumcise my heart according to Your word in Deuteronomy 30:6, that I may live.*"

Dear reader, my words of warning are not directed to you alone, but rather to all who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior ---- myself included. I find myself ---- guilty ---- as charged. I condemn no other man, but warn him ---- I must. God's Word and man's tongue will in the end determine his or her eternal destiny ---- May God have mercy on all of us, and do whatever is necessary to gain our undivided attention before there

is no more time, either to listen or to speak. My prayer is that there may be a few of you that this letter reaches, who will hear Father's warning and set your will, by His grace, to agree with Him and receive your freedom from the corruption that now overwhelms so many within the ranks of we professing believers.

I close with this thought. The mind that fails to center itself on Father's word, assures that one of a heart that is not sanctified by the washing of the water of that Word (Ephesians 5:26 & 32). In this state, apart from repentance, and a turning back to God's word, we become temples for the greatest "time waster" known to man ---- that of an undisciplined tongue. May God spare each of us, such an end to life. **"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;"** (James 1:19).

Your Brother

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Thomas

"The tongue and brain are under our control, not God's."

"Remember we have all the time there is. The majority of us waste time and want to encroach on eternity."

"Men never suffer because they live a godly life; they suffer for their speech. Humanly speaking, if our Lord had held His tongue, He would not have been put to death."

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin!"

Oswald Chambers
1874-1917

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)

