

"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)

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## “Time Wasted”

*“How long Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like  
fire? Remember how short my time is;” (Psalm 89: 46 & 47a)*

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

The single most precious thing that a human being receives when they are given life, is “time”. When life begins, our time clock begins to click off the seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years; it cannot be stopped, it just keeps ticking ----ticking----ticking. Time cannot be recaptured – once spent, it is gone forever. In relation to the “whole of time”, each man’s portion is very, very, small indeed. We are here, but for a brief moment ----and then, gone. Each of us has been given, by God Himself, our portion of time. We only have what we have been given ---- no more ---- no less ----once spent ---- that’s it!

A few days ago, the issue of “time” was brought to my attention, as I heard in my spirit the words ---- “time wasted”. As I turned my attention to the subject of “time”, I believe that the Spirit of Wisdom (Isaiah 11:2) began to reveal much truth concerning “time” and man. Few subjects should command our attention more than that of “time”, and our use of same. I challenge everyone who reads these words to soberly and prayerfully consider the following questions:

“How are you spending your allotted time?” “How much of your time spent  
bears the fruit of spiritual growth and maturity?” “Are you building a future of  
peace, joy, and an eternal relationship of intimacy with our Lord and King, or are  
you wasting your time?”

I caution you, dear reader; take your time considering the questions, before you answer. A quick response, in the positive, would “most likely” indicate that you, or I, have given the subject matter little thought and consideration.

One of the most productive gifts that God gives man is the revelation of his “brevity” (shortness of duration). Most of us rise up in the morning, and go through the day until we lie down again, as if we were going to live indefinitely; of course, we know (intellectually) that is not the case. However, knowing something intellectually, and walking in the “revelation” of that same knowledge, are two entirely different things. Having an intellectual knowledge of my brevity of life will have little or no

influence on how I spend my time day-by-day. On the other hand, having the “revelation” of my brevity of life, impacts my thought patterns, my words, and my actions; my time spent is greatly influenced by having received this grace.

Father has made it clear through His word, that man’s time here on earth is extremely short. He also tells us to ask Him for the revelation of this spiritual truth. Please listen:

*“Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.” (Psalm 144:4)*

*“We were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow.” (Job 8:9)*

*“Surely every man walks about like a shadow;” (Psalm 39:6a)*

*“My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass.” (Psalm 102:11)*

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

The wisdom gained from receiving the revelation of his “brevity” causes man to seriously consider how he spends his time. It certainly has impacted me, and is causing me to evaluate my time spent, on a day-by-day basis. Not only that, but I am actually aware of the vast amount of time that I have wasted in my life. Time, that is gone forever ---- time spent that stands as a monument to one man’s foolishness, lack of knowledge, and careless attitude toward the gift of life itself. All who have received this revelation of man’s brevity, will relate well to what I am saying.

If you are one of those who has received our Father’s grace in this matter, I encourage you not to despair of your time wasted ---- rather, thank God for His loving grace ---- He could have left you to your own devices, and a lifetime of waste ---- Now, we turn and cry out: “What say the Scriptures?” “What shall we do, from this moment on?” It is written:

*“But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3: 13 & 14)*

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6)*

I would now like to take a few more minutes of your time, to share what I have been shown concerning “time wasted”, followed by examples of “time well spent”. But, before I do, I should point out that what I am sharing in this paper, comes from having been given not only a Biblical world-view, but also a Biblical social-view. It is my firm belief that there is no “Truth” to be found within life’s experience, including the whole of creation, except as ---- “It is written”. Apart from the Word of God, there is nothing!

*“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)*

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6: 63)*

I pray, that those who read this paper have received the grace of having both a Biblical social, and world view; and that what you read here will confirm what you have already heard, and encourage you in your walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). If you do not have such a view, I encourage you to examine your heart, before God, as it relates to His Word; never forgetting that you cannot walk with Him, unless you are in agreement with Him (Amos 3: 3), and there are no exceptions (Galatians 2: 6). Yes, “the way” is narrow, difficult to find, and few there are who find it (Matthew 7: 14).

Finding “the way” is difficult, and it takes much of one’s time. Unfortunately, most of us have been taught that to be counted among the “few” who find “the way”, and spend eternity with Christ, all we need to do is believe in Jesus; then if we want to receive special gifts or rewards, we will attend church regularly, tithe, visit the sick, etc. We naturally consider our religious activity to be “time well spent”. Maybe ---- maybe not.

*“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”  
(Matthew 15: 8 & 9)*

Whenever we do anything, as it relates to our “practice” of religion, that is, in God’s eyes --- “vain” --- we are “wasting our time”. If truth be known, much of our religious activity, when measured by Father’s word, is nothing more than vanity. A. W. Tozer, one of the most quoted men of God, of the last century, said of our religious practices:

“We repeat without feeling, we repeat without meaning, we sing without wonder, and we listen without surprise. We go one step further and come to what I will call the rut, which is bondage to the rote. When we are unable to see and sense bondage to the rote, we are in a rut. Not knowing is risky business and full of danger. Spiritually speaking, the rut is bondage to the rote, and the greatest danger lies in our inability to sense or feel this bondage. The third word, and I do not particularly like to use it, but the history of the church is filled with it. The word is “rot”. The church is afflicted by dry rot.” (Rut, Rot or Revival, 1993 by Christian Publications, Inc.)

*“And in vain they worship Me-----”.*

Spending time practicing our Christian religion, while our hearts are filled with the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things (Mark 4: 19), is nothing but vanity, and a waste of one’s precious time. We may fool ourselves ----- we may fool those around us -----, but we cannot fool God, -----, and He is warning us not to treat the time that He has given us, as if it had no eternal value.

Being a good steward over one’s time is not an easy task, especially in the modern world. From the time that we awake, until the time that we lay down for the night, the world with all of its charms, pleasures, and busyness, woos and lures us into her lair of time-wasting deceit.

Some of us are hooked by the world's pleasures, i.e., sports, hobbies, movies, secular reading, travel or fine dining. Others are hooked by the never-ending busyness of their pursuit to acquire or maintain material possessions ----- or their involvement in civic affairs which add meeting upon meeting until their day-timer is filled.

Then there are those who are hooked with the cares and worries of the world they live in, resulting in parents attempting to live their children's or grandchildren's lives for them.

Lastly, many of us are hooked by the world's electronic trinkets, including the TV, cell phone, personal computer, laptop computer, I Pod, MP3 Player, I Phone, Gameboy, DVD and CD player, etc.---all designed to intrude into one's personal space and consume more and more of their time; eventually leaving them unable to "think" upon the weightier matters of life and eternity ---they become bored with life apart from their electronic fix -----spiritually blind and deaf, they are left to drift through life as helpless, hopeless, pitiful casualties of modern day Babylon. May God have mercy on us!

Many of the things that I have mentioned above cannot be avoided in these days in which we live, and when used as a tool to advance one's pursuit of Truth, Light and Life, they are good indeed. However, when used to satisfy the flesh they can become inherently evil. Sadly, most of us do not have a clue, of just how deeply we are infected, and have taken on the likeness and image of the world ----all of which ---is under the sway of the evil one (1 John 15: 15 & 16, & 1 John 5: 19). We must never forget, encouraging each other, that we are commanded as follows:

*"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3: 17)*

I predict that one day soon, each of us will learn that one of the greatest evils that befell man, was the development of the modern-day electronic age. While "much good" has resulted from the birth of electronics, that good is over shadowed by the hellish evil of robbing man (especially children) of his or her ability to "think" beyond the glow of the monitor, and the continual drone of meaningless chatter. Yes, the enemy came to "steal", "kill" and destroy" (John 10: 10); and while we were so selfishly consumed with worry about his stealing our material possessions, he quietly, and without notice, stole our "time", and took our children captive; and God's people loved to have it so. May His mercy visit us in this dark hour of time and wake us up before entire generations are lost forever.

Now, I would like to bring this paper to a close by identifying how a good steward spends his or her time. In doing so, it is important to note, that all who are "Born Again", by Biblical definition, no longer belong to themselves, but rather belong to God (1 Corinthians 6: 19 & 20 – Romans 14: 7 & 8); old things pass away and all things become new (2 Corinthians 5: 17 & Romans 8: 9); and they have a love for Father's word written on the tablet of their heart and placed in their mind (Hebrews 8: 10). If these qualities are missing in a man or woman, they may be in the "birth canal", but they are yet to be soundly converted or Born Again. Until the rebirth is complete, there is virtually no chance that their time will be well spent, as far as God is concerned.

For those who are spiritually alive I encourage you to consider your time spent on a daily basis. Evaluate everything you do, in light of Father's word --- everything! I strongly recommend, in order of importance the following ways to spend one's time:

1. Eat, consume, and devour, God's word from Genesis 1: 1 to Revelation 22: 21. Without His word in you, you have no spiritual life within you ( John 6: 53 & John 6: 63). You cannot spend too much time in God's word.
2. Spend much time in solitude, separated from all other humans (including family), where there is no chance of being interrupted by anything created by the hands of man. Silence will become the dearest of companions, and provide the entrance into the "Secret Place" (Psalm 91: 1) where you will meet with, and fellowship with our Lord Himself. It is from the Secret Place that man enters into the realm where Light, Life and Truth dwell. You will never spend too much time there.
3. Father tells us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17). Prayer is nothing more than walking with God; being in union with Him, as we express to Him our heart's desire; which confirms His heart's desire, resulting in our Father's will being confirmed in the earth (1 John 5: 14 & 15). Prayer brings us into a state of "Christ consciousness" where we reflect His likeness and image to a lost and dying world. You cannot spend too much time in prayer.

All other activity, apart from the above, pales in comparison of importance, as it relates to the well-being of the soul of man. The modern-day church is spiritually malnourished and virtually powerless because her members know little, and care even less, of the three areas I have mentioned.

*"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 nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them." (Psalm 39: 4 – 6)*

*"Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deuteronomy 32: 29)*

Your brother,

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Thomas

**"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)**