

The Problem Of Time

Introduction.

1. One of the great problems of man, and of the Christian, is time.
2. Job wrote our days are few and wrought with trouble. (Job 14:1,2).

Job 14:1 "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil.

Job 14:2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.

3. It is important to examine some problems and facts relative to time.

Problem Of Recognizing Our Frailty And Measure Of Days

1. Learn to recognize that we are frail and life can be taken away. (Psa. 39:4; 90:12).

Psa. 39:4 "LORD, make me to know my end And what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am.	Psa. 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
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2. James 4:14 tells us of the brevity of life.

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are {just} a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

- a. The Greek word "atmis" [at **mis**] means "a vapor, a mist."
- b. It is something that is very short and can pass away very quickly.

3. Life is something we live daily - a day at a time.

- a. This does not mean we make no plans for tomorrow. Only a fool gives absolutely no thought for tomorrow.
- b. It does mean we plan the future with God at the center of our plans (Jas. 4:15), and we do not fret about tomorrow.

Problem Of Protecting Our Body And Caring For Our Health To The End That Our Days May Be Lengthened.

1. Man's years may be increased. (Psa. 90:10; Eph. 6:2,3).

Psa. 90:10 As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is <i>but</i> labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away.	Eph. 6:2 <i>Honor your father and mother</i> (which is the first commandment with a promise), Eph. 6:3 <i>so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.</i>
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- a. Life can be shortened by evil. (Psa. 55:23).

Psa. 55:23 But You, O God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction; Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days. But I will trust in You.

- b. It can also be shortened by accidents, sickness and a host of other things.
2. We are not to have the attitude that life is short and it doesn't matter what we do.
 - a. Life is short. but it is of great importance what we do with our life and time.
 - b. We are not to live a life of pessimism and uselessness, but a life of optimism and usefulness.
 3. Life can be lengthened by:

Eating nutritiously	Exercise sufficiently	Being careful and using reasonable caution.
Proper rest	Taking some time to relax	Laughter
Working sensibly	Taking appropriate medication	Not constantly fretting and worrying

4. Whatever contributes to our longevity is a daily problem that involves our time and effort.

Problem Of Limitation Of Time

1. There never seems to be enough time - there is a limited amount of it.
2. There never seems to be enough time to accomplish all we want to do.
3. Theoretically we all have the same amount of time, but practically we do not.
 - a. The amount of free time will vary with circumstances.
 - b. A mother who has small children certainly does not have the time of a woman at another point in life.
 - c. Some have special circumstances demanding huge amounts of time.

Problem Of Procrastinating Until Tomorrow What Should Be Done Today

1. The great words of the Bible are "now" and "today." (2 Cor. 6:1, 2; Heb. 3:7,8).

2 Cor 6:1 And working together {with Him,} we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--

2 Cor 6:2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"--

Heb 3:7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

Heb 3:8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

2. We need to encourage one another today. (Heb. 3:13).
3. Counting on tomorrow is dangerous. (Prov. 27:1).
 - a. Death may come
 - b. Illness or incapacitation
 - c. Loss of interest
 - d. Loss of opportunity
4. Tomorrow

Letter of gratitude	Visit grandmother	Contact a visitor at church
Express love to another	Visit hospital	Apologize for a wrong
Start reading the Bible daily	Get acquainted with new family down the street	Break a bad habit
Get right with God	Take action to improve skills	Talk to someone about coming to Christ or coming back to the Lord

Problem Of Redeeming Time

1. Paul wrote (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5).

Eph. 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.	Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
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- a. “Making the most of your time” comes from “exagorazo” [ex ah gah **rah** zoh] meaning “to redeem, buy back, rescue from loss or misapplication.”
 - b. We are to use our time wisely.
 - c. We need to rescue our time from waste.
2. Wasting time - We can save time by not wasting it.
 - a. Lack of application
 - 1) If we accomplish things, we must apply ourselves. (Eccles. 9:10).
Ecc 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do {it} with {all} your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.
 - 2) Because play is easier and more fun, a child may refuse to apply himself very long.
 - 3) We need to put away childish things and act our age. (1 Cor. 13:11).
 - b. Many of us waste small amounts of time frequently during the day that add up to a lot of time.

3. Reading cheap literature. (Phil. 4:8).

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

4. Engaging in dissipation rather than recreation.

- a. Recreation builds us up - it refreshes.
- b. Dissipation tears us down physically, mentally and spiritually.

5. Pondering past mistakes

- a. All men have made mistakes.
- b. All men, including Christians, have sinned time and time again.
- c. Some refuse to accept God's forgiveness. (Heb. 8:12).

Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

- d. Some refuse to move forward in a positive and fruitful way in life.

6. Worrying about the future. (Matt. 6:34).

7. Meditating on injuries - real or fanciful. (Rom. 12:19).

- a. Many are seeking to get even and ponder ways to strike back at a person.
- b. We should rather do good to our enemies. (Rom. 12:19-21).

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath {of God,} for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

8. Gossiping or listening to gossip. (Lev. 19:16).

9. Some waste time by lying in bed longer than is needful or helpful. (Prov. 20:13).

Prov 20:13 Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; Open your eyes, {and} you will be satisfied with food.

10. Long telephone conversations, texting, television. etc.

- a. The telephone is a great blessing unless we become addicted to it.
- b. Many have become addicted to texting and text thousands of times a month.
- c. Television can be a great blessing if we do not let it take over our time and family life.

11. Disorganization
12. Being afraid to make a decision - Fear becomes a decision to do nothing.
13. It is not a waste of time
 - a. To relax
 - b. Be with family
 - c. Studying God's word or meditating on it. (2 Tim. 2:15; Psa. 1:1,2).
 - d. Be kind (Eph. 4:32).

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

- e. Make preparation
 - 1) School
 - 2) Marriage
 - 3) Preaching
 - 4) For a Career
 - 5) Hone skills

Some Interesting Time Quotes

1. Lost time is never found again.
2. Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.
3. Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present.
4. We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.
5. My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.
6. No matter how busy you are, you must take time to make the other person feel important.
7. Tough times never last, but tough people do.
8. Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Poor Richard's Almanac
9. Time is a created thing. To say "I don't have time" is to say "I don't want to." LAO TZU, O Magazine, Jan. 2007
10. Time is what we want most, but... what we use worst. William Penn

11. Time is the only time to prepare for the timeless eternity to come. Alan Ritchie

12. "Behold now a time acceptable, behold now a day of salvation." Lit. translation of 2 Cor. 6:2b

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