



Stewardship Concepts and Principles

Why It Matters

Stewardship and Use of Time

Final

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Bible Study on Stewardship of Time Final

Introduction:

Stewardship in the Bible encompasses more than just the management of money and resources—it involves the faithful management of all God has entrusted to us, including our time.

For believers, time is a gift from God that we are called to use wisely and intentionally.

Biblical stewardship is about acknowledging that everything we have belongs to God and should be used for His glory.

It's a lifestyle of partnership with God, faithfulness in managing resources, and commitment to living with purpose.

True stewardship results in spiritual growth, increased influence for the kingdom, and a deeper relationship with God.

Let's Examine Some Key Scriptures and Explanations:

1. Ephesians 5:15-17 (KJV)

'See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is.'

This passage instructs believers to live carefully and wisely. The phrase 'redeeming the time' means making the most of every opportunity.

In a world filled with distractions and evil influences, God's people are called to be intentional with how they spend their time, aligning their priorities with God's will.

Paul challenges believers to walk wisely, emphasizing discernment in daily living and highlights the urgency of making intentional decisions. "

"The days are evil" refers to the moral challenges and distractions in the world that can lead us astray.

Believers are called to avoid foolishness and seek divine wisdom to prioritize their time for God's purposes. This passage is a wake-up call to treat time as a valuable and limited resource.

According to Ephesians 5:15-17, when Paul urges believers to 'redeem the time,' he contrasts wise living with foolish living.

This tells us that foolishness is often tied to how we misuse or waste time.

Here are several kinds of foolishness we are encouraged to avoid in the context of redeeming the time:

1. Living without purpose or direction

Paul warns against living aimlessly or carelessly. Foolishness includes drifting through life without seeking God's will or living with intention.

Redeeming the time requires us to live purposefully and being spiritually alert.

2. Ignoring God's will

Paul says, 'Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.' A major form of foolishness is making decisions or spending time without considering God's Word or direction.

3. Wasting time on sin and worldly distractions

Foolishness includes choosing entertainment, habits, or relationships that do not edify or honor God. Time wasted on sinful or unproductive things cannot be regained, and it hinders spiritual growth.

4. Neglecting spiritual disciplines

Failing to invest time in prayer, Bible study, worship, or fellowship is a form of spiritual foolishness. Redeeming the time requires us to prioritize our relationship with God.

5. Procrastination and laziness

Putting off obedience, delaying good works, or ignoring responsibilities are subtle forms of foolish living. The Bible consistently warns against slothfulness and calls for diligence.

6. Living only for the present

Foolish people live for temporary pleasures without thinking of eternity. Redeeming the time means making daily choices in light of eternity and the return of Christ.

In summary, we avoid foolishness by living wisely, making the most of our time, and seeking God's will in all things. Redeeming the time is not just about being busy, but about being fruitful and faithful with the time God has given us.

2. Psalm 90:12

'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'

Here, Moses asks God for wisdom to live with an awareness of the brevity of life. When we understand that our days are limited, we will seek to use each day for God's glory rather than waste it on fleeting things.

This verse is a humble request from the psalmist, traditionally attributed to Moses, asking God for wisdom in understanding the brevity and fragility of human life.

The phrase 'number our days' means to recognize that life is limited and to live each day with purpose and awareness. It encourages believers to consider how fleeting time truly is.

The purpose of numbering our days is not to create anxiety, but to inspire us to live wisely. When we realize that our time on earth is short, we become more intentional about how we use our days—seeking God's guidance and making choices that reflect his will.

Applying our hearts to wisdom means prioritizing what truly matters in life: obedience to God, love for others, and living in accordance with biblical values.

In summary, Psalm 90:12 calls us to live each day with the end in mind, using our time in a way that reflects eternal priorities rather than temporary pleasures.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are there specific distractions that prevent you from using your time wisely for the Lord?
2. How can remembering that life is short motivate us to live more purposefully each day?
3. What are some practical ways you can serve God in your everyday tasks?
4. How do you balance rest, work, ministry, and family time in a way that honors God?

This study encourages us to look at time not as ours to control, but as a gift from God to manage with purpose.

May we be faithful stewards, using each moment to glorify Him.

How we approach Stewardship and the Gifts and Talents God has given us.

Stewardship at its Root

At its root, stewardship is about responsibly managing something entrusted to one's care, not ownership.

It involves being a steward, or manager, on behalf of another, often with a focus on preserving and protecting what is entrusted.

4. Key Principles of Stewardship:

- **Responsibility:** Stewards are accountable for the resources and responsibilities they have been entrusted with.
- **Wisdom:** Stewardship involves using resources wisely and making sound judgments.
- **Service:** Stewards are called to serve others and advance God's purposes.
- **Giving:** Stewardship often involves giving back to God and others through time, talents, and resources.

How We are to Approach Stewardship.

Colossians 3:23-24

'And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.'

This verse reminds believers that every task, no matter how mundane, can be done for the Lord.

Time spent in service or in daily obligations is an opportunity to honor Christ when done with the right heart and attitude.

Context:

Paul wrote the book of Colossians to address false teachings and to encourage believers to live in the fullness of Christ.

In chapter 3, Paul provides practical instructions for Christian living, emphasizing that our new life in Christ should affect every area, including our work and relationships.

These verses are part of the section addressing how slaves (or workers) should carry out their duties.

Though the original audience includes servants, the principles apply to all believers today in how we approach our responsibilities.

Explanation:

Verse 23 starts with 'whatsoever ye do,' indicating that this instruction applies to every

task, big or small. Paul encourages Christians to work 'heartily,' which means with genuine effort, enthusiasm, and sincerity.

Importantly, our work should be done 'as to the Lord, and not unto men.'

This transforms our perspective—we are not merely serving human supervisors or institutions but serving Christ Himself.

Verse 24 offers the reason and motivation: 'Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance.'

This reminds believers that God sees our faithfulness, even in unseen or thankless work, and will reward us in eternity.

Our earthly work has spiritual significance when done for Christ.

The concluding phrase, 'for ye serve the Lord Christ,' beautifully sums up the believer's identity—not just as workers in the world, but as loyal servants of Jesus.

Application:

These verses teach us that all labor—whether in the church, home, school, or workplace—can be an act of worship when done with the right heart.

Christians are called to pursue excellence not for personal gain or human recognition, but to honor the Lord. This mindset brings dignity and purpose to even the most ordinary tasks.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to do your work 'as to the Lord'? How would that change your attitude or performance?
2. Are there areas of your life where you need to serve more wholeheartedly?
3. How can remembering that you serve Christ affect how you interact with supervisors, coworkers, or family members?
4. What are some ways you can glorify God through your daily responsibilities?
5. How does the promise of an eternal reward motivate you in your current season of life?

These verses remind us that as believers, everything we do is sacred when it's done for Jesus.

Whether in ministry, business, or family roles, we are ultimately serving the Lord. May we be faithful stewards of all our responsibilities, doing them for His glory.

