



Your Life ... Don't Waste It

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

January 5, 2020

Truth for Life

For the week of January 5, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

"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." Eph. 5:15-17

4 Critical Issues ... Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Concerning _____ (15-16)

Two words for "Time"

- **Chronos** – Clock time; measure of time in minutes, hours, etc. (Chronology, Chronological).
- **Kairos** – A measured, allocated, or fixed season/epoch/era.

2. Concerning _____ (17)

Paul is concerned with our perception of what God is doing in history and our wise response to it.

3. Concerning _____ (18-21)

"Be Filled" – is used here to define how the wind fills a sail and thereby carries the ship along.

4. Concerning _____

One further word for "Time"

- **nun** –it speaks of the pregnant present moment and its eternal significance

My Take Away ...Critical Questions

- **What does God Want?** _____.
"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God." ... Romans 6:13; Cp. Deuteronomy 10:12
- **What does it Take?** _____.
"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." ... 1 Tim. 4:7 ("Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit." – TLB)
- **Why Should I Do It?** _____.
"He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." ... 2 Corinthians 5:15

1. What is your favorite thing about the New Year? What is your least favorite thing? What serves as your greatest challenge? What is your greatest fear regarding the New Year?
2. What is it about the new year beginning that brings a desire or need for resolutions? How successful have you been in the past of accomplishing those? What has been the biggest hindrance to your success?
3. There's no time of the year that motivates change like the New Year. For many of us that means new goals and resolutions in 2020. What's also true is that most resolutions don't last for more than a few weeks. The good news is that God is working year-round and can help us bring about change more than we can on our own. How do the following verses further illustrate this idea of God working in us to bring about change?
2 Corinthians 5:17 Romans 6:4 Romans 8:11
Can you think of any ways you've changed because of God's work in your life?
4. For most of us, resolutions are unsuccessful because we come face to face with challenges or difficulties early in the journey. The verses below tell us about resources that we have at our disposal that could help in those times.
Lamentations 3:22-24 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Romans 8:31-39
We each react to struggles differently. Do you notice any themes or patterns within yourself when facing hardship? Could these patterns give insight as to why you are not more successful in reaching your goals?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. If you could change just one thing about your walk with God, what would it be? How can you begin to change it?
 - b. How can a believer know whether an outward matter is conformity with the world or just culturally and spiritually neutral?
 - c. Must growing Christians be reading Christians? Practically, how can a non-reader become a reader?
 - d. What criteria can we apply to determine whether a matter not specified in the Bible is worldly or godly? (See 1 Cor. 6:12-20.)



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4 Critical Issues ... Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Concerning Time (15-16)

Two words for "Time"

- Chronos – Clock time; measure of time in minutes, hours, etc. (Chronology, Chronological).
- Kairos – A measured, allocated, or fixed season/epoch/era.

2. Concerning Wisdom (17)

Paul is concerned with our perception of what God is doing in history and our wise response to it.

3. Concerning Strength (18-21)

"Be Filled" – is used here to define how the wind fills a sail and thereby carries the ship along.

4. Concerning Immediacy

One further word for "Time"

- nun – it speaks of the pregnant present moment and its eternal significance

My Take Away ...Critical Questions

○ **What does God Want? My Whole Life.**

"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God." ... Romans 6:13; Cp. Deuteronomy 10:12

○ **What does it Take? Discipline.**

"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." ... 1 Tim. 4:7 ("Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit." – TLB)

○ **Why Should I Do It? The Cross.**

"He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." ... 2 Corinthians 5:15

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