



GC |
STEWARDSHIP



STEWARDSHIP SPECIAL THE 4 T'S · 01 TIME

Stewardship of time

To every thing there is a season

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"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

OUTLINE OF THE MESSAGE

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01 The value of time in our daily life

The Bible stresses how important it is to manage our time well.

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

PSALM 90:12

What is time, and what is it for? Time is a physical quantity used to measure how long events last and how far apart they are, so that we can place them in the past, the present and the future. It helps us organize our daily activities and understand history accurately.

Why does it matter so much?

It defines our priorities — what we spend our time on shows what we truly care about; the familiar "I don't have time" often means "it is not my priority."

It brings peace of mind — knowing how to organize the day helps reduce stress, reach personal goals and find a healthy balance between work, rest, our relationships with others and our relationship with God.

02 Beware of misusing time

Wasted time becomes an insurmountable obstacle between us and our desire to accomplish important things. We must be especially careful with leisure. That is probably where the greatest waste happens.

Several studies have found that the activities most people choose in order to relax — television, browsing the web, social media — in other words, those in which we passively consume digital content, are the ones that least renew us for the next day.

03 The benefits of using time well

Less stress — when you plan your tasks and know what to do at each moment, you avoid last-minute pressure and anxiety.

More productivity — it helps you do more in less time, putting off less and focusing on what really matters.

A better balance in life — it leaves room for rest, recreation and quality time with family and friends.

Better concentration — when you remove distractions and organize your work in blocks, your attention improves remarkably.

It builds discipline — it helps you set clear goals, meet deadlines and be more punctual.

04 The value of time in our relationship with God

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

JAMES 4:14

Among all the gifts God has given to human beings, there is one that often goes unnoticed, yet is of incalculable value: time.

We can lose money and recover it; we can lose material goods and acquire them again; we can even recover our health after an illness. Yet there is something we can never get back: the time we have already lived.

They say time is money, but the saying falls short: time is, in truth, life.

Let us take an honest look at the following verse.

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

PSALM 90:10

Figures on life expectancy around the world, according to the EFE news agency:

Average life expectancy worldwide — 73.3 years.

Healthy life expectancy — 62.8 years (the estimated time lived in good health).

Difference between the sexes — women tend to live longer than men: about 76.4 years compared with 71.2, according to demographic estimates.

05 Let us do the math

If our average life span is 70 years, subtract your present age and look at the result in two directions:

The past — have you made the best use of the time you have lived? Have you enjoyed it in the light of what Ecclesiastes 11:9 says?

The future — according to that subtraction, how much time might you have left? What opportunities do you want to take before your time runs out?

TO THINK ABOUT

"Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend." — Theophrastus (371–287 BC)

06 Warnings we find in the Scriptures

Warning #1

"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."

EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Warning #2

"Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them."

PSALM 39:5-6

Warning #3

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

2 PETER 3:9-12

07 We will give account of the time we have lived

"The talent of time is precious. Every day it is given to us in trust, and we shall be called upon to give an account of it to God."

ELLEN G. WHITE · In Heavenly Places, p. 227 (Manuscript 15, 1898)

08 Time to move forward

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

ROMANS 13:11-14

Conclusion

"We have no time now to confer with flesh and blood, we must lay hold of the spiritual power of God, and make reforms before it shall be everlastingly too late."

ELLEN G. WHITE · Letter 85, 1896

Although it is true that you can do absolutely nothing to make up for the time wasted in the past, there is one thing you can do: live the time still ahead of you to good purpose.

APPEAL

Satan knows that our time is short, and his greatest effort in these days will not be so much to destroy you as to entertain you, so that you do not use the precious time of grace to make a thorough preparation of your life for translation to a world where time will be without limit.

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

Key texts for the presentation

Ecclesiastes 3:1	to every thing there is a season.
Psalms 90:10, 12	numbering our days with wisdom.
James 4:14	life is like a vapour.
Ephesians 5:15-17	redeeming the time.
Psalms 39:5-6	the brevity of life.
2 Peter 3:9-12	looking for and hastening the coming of the Lord.
Romans 13:11-14	it is high time to awake out of sleep.

Sources

Bible: King James Version (KJV), the same version as the English slides.

Ellen G. White, *In Heavenly Places*, p. 227 (reading for August 8). Original source: Manuscript 15, 1898.

Ellen G. White, Letter 85, 1896. The Spanish and Portuguese texts quote it from their March 16 devotional readings; no English devotional carries it, so it is cited from the letter.

Theophrastus: the common paraphrase of Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, V.40.

Life expectancy figures: EFE news agency, as given by the author.