

MT. SPOKANE CHURCH

A HEART LIKE MINE

Discovering God's Will for Your Life

'Time Keeps on Ticking'

Message 7 of 8

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Pastor Bob Smith

- Discovering God's will for your life will result in learning to manage time wisely.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 5:15-17.

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

- The Greek word for opportunity is "kairos" (καιρός). It means time, season, or opportune time. It is not merely a succession of minutes, which is the Greek word "chrónos", rather this word means a specific period, a unique time, or season of opportunity.

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." Colossians 4:5 (NIV)

"What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (NIV)

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." Romans 13:11 (NIV)

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- Life on earth is filled with opportunities that allow us to invest in eternity and heaven.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 8:5-6.

"Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him." Ecclesiastes 8:5-6 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for know is "yada" (יָדָע). It means to perceive, find out, discern, recognize, distinguish, to know by experience and be acquainted with.
- Wise people learn to use time doing the right things that will be rewarded in heaven. They learn by discernment and experience what the proper time and procedure for every matter is.

3 Biblical Truths About God's Will and Time

Helping People Become All God Wants Them To Be

BIBLICAL TRUTH #1: God has a mysterious relationship with time.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to 2 Peter 3:8.

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” 2 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

- Time for most affluent Americans is about hurrying and doing more - with the desired result being to obtain and consume more of what the world has to offer.

“The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.” Psalm 90:10 (NIV)

- Thinking of life on earth as a finite number of days may seem like a pessimistic and morbid way of viewing living, but it is a Biblical perspective.
- Biblical truth is realistic because it is always better to know things as they are rather than to believe things as they seem. It is hopeful because it draws us to God’s promise that there is more to life than what we presently see.

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12 (NIV)

- Discovering God’s will is rooted in the truth that He has given each of us enough time to accomplish His purposes for our life. His plan has been unfolding since the beginning of what we call time.

BIBLICAL TRUTH #2: God uses different seasons of life to accomplish His will through us.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

➤ The Hebrew word for season is “*zaman*” (זמן). It means a set time, or an appointed time.

- Using time wisely requires cultivating a genuine heavenly mindedness.
- When we long for more than this world has to offer, we are really longing for eternity.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

- The twinge of longing we feel when we don’t want a particular moment to end is actually our hearts yearning for eternity.

BIBLICAL TRUTH #3: God’s will is for us to be rewarded as good managers of our time.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 39:4-5.

“Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath.” Psalm 39:4-5 (NIV)

- God will evaluate how well each of us manages our time. The Biblical principle of stewardship is the same for time as for finances - or any other resource He places in our care.

- The key principle of time management is recognizing the value of time and redeeming it. We must invest time and use it carefully as the priceless resource God intends it to be.

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Matthew 25:23 (NIV)

- Eternity does not tolerate laziness and complacency. We cannot be content to merely survive and waste the many opportunities we have to serve God and other people.