

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# Time & How You Should Use It

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II Peter 3:1-9

**1 Most of us think about time quite a lot.**

**Albert Einstein, in fact, implied that a person in motion actually experiences time differently than one who is stationary. This is unnoticeable, of course, unless the one in motion is traveling at a significant velocity!**

**Let's look at how God looks at time differently than we do and then, how we might wisely use this precious commodity. 2**

**From the Apostle Peter's second letter, chapter 3, verses 1 through 9, we read, Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will**

**come, scoffing, and following their own evil desires. <sup>1</sup>**

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**They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>2</sup> <sub>4</sub>**

**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. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is**

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<sup>1</sup> II Peter 3:1-3.

<sup>2</sup> II Peter 3:4-7.

**patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.<sup>3</sup>**

**That's how God looks at time. So, how do we look at time?**

**There are 8,760 hours in a year. Work and sleep require about 5000 hours. Allow 1000 hours for dressing and eating and you have about 2000 hours left. Take half of that for recreation and you still have more time than the average student uses for classes and study!**

**It takes seventy hours and forty minutes to read the Bible through if you read it aloud.**

**An Atlanta mortician has adopted the drive-in window approach! He has five windows installed next to an alley adjoining his building: each six feet long. Each contains a coffin. He says, "So many people want to come by and see the remains of a relative or friend,**

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<sup>3</sup> II Peter 3:8-9.

**but they just don't have the time. This way they can drive by and just keep on going!"**

**Pastor Alfred Wishart opened his Easter Sunday sermon at the Arlington Avenue Presbyterian Church with these words, "Did you ever stop to think how much time it takes to get you all looking so nice for today? With shopping, I estimate that it took each of you four hours to get ready. Since there are about five hundred of you here, that come to two thousand hours. If you divide that up into forty-hour workweeks, and allow two weeks for vacation, it breaks down into a full year of preparation for Easter Sunday. So, that's where you've been since last year!"**

**We argue that we never have enough of it.**

**This is what God's word says about your use of time, 5  
Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise**

but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>4</sup> <sub>6</sub>

So, what about your use of time? How are you expected to use it? <sub>7</sub>

Let's notice first . . .

## I. God Always Uses Time Perfectly

God always uses time perfectly. <sub>8</sub>

**The Lord came** at the perfect time. <sup>9</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” <sup>5</sup> <sub>10</sub> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time. <sup>6</sup> <sub>11</sub> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born

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<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 5:15-16.

<sup>5</sup> Mark 1:15.

<sup>6</sup> I Timothy 2:5-6.

of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.<sup>7</sup> <sup>12</sup>

**The gospel was presented** at the perfect time. At his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior . . . <sup>8</sup> <sup>13</sup>

The Lord is **coming again** at the perfect time. Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 9 and 10 state, **And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.** <sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Galatians 4:4-5.

<sup>8</sup> Titus 1:3.

## II. How You Might Use Your Time Unwisely

How might you use your time unwisely? <sup>15</sup>

You might use it unwisely **by pretending that you have control** over what happens to you. You don't! <sup>16</sup>

You may boast about your future. Proverbs, chapter 27, warns against that! <sup>9 17</sup>

Or you may plan for tomorrow's self indulgence.  
“Come,” each one cries, “let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better.” <sup>10 18</sup>

You may spend your time simply preparing only for your own pleasure, like the farmer in the Bible whose crop was so good he decided to retire. So, he planned for his retirement so he could sit back and just **eat, drink and be merry!** But God took his life away before

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<sup>9</sup> Proverbs 27:1 - Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

<sup>10</sup> Isaiah 56:12.

he could enjoy his plans! So, what good were they? <sup>11</sup>

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Another way you might be using your time unwisely is **by not using it with God's priorities in mind.** <sup>20</sup>

For instance, worldly entanglements get in the way! In the Book of Genesis, Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family, had to be dragged out of the wicked city of Sodom. <sup>12</sup> You can get so involved with your secular life that your spiritual life gets buried! <sup>21</sup>

Even taking care of your family, being a good parent, can get in the way! As important as it is, doing things for, or with, your spouse and kids, can become so time consuming that God is left out.

Lord Jesus had some things to say about the priority of family in contrast to spending time with Him.

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<sup>11</sup> Luke 12:16-21.

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 19:16 - When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

One of the disciples asked the Lord to excuse him from ministry in order to take care of an important family matter. But Lord Jesus responded that he needed to follow Him at that time instead. <sup>13</sup> <sub>22</sub> Later, another disciple simply wanted to say “Goodbye” to his family, but his ministry, at the time, had to take priority. <sup>14</sup> <sub>23</sub>

Sometimes, personal convenience gets in the way! This happened when the Apostle Paul was on trial. **As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”** <sup>15</sup> Does sleeping in, on the only day you think you can do it, keep you away from worshipping the Lord on Sunday morning? <sub>24</sub>

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<sup>13</sup> Matthew 8:21-22 - Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

<sup>14</sup> Luke 9:61-62 - Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>15</sup> Acts 24:25.

### III. How You Might Use Your Time Wisely

How might you use your time wisely? <sup>25</sup>

You might use your time wisely **by realizing the brevity of life.** <sup>26</sup>

Life is like a shadow! Job says, **For we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow.** <sup>16</sup> <sup>27</sup> Again, Job states, **He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure.** <sup>17</sup> <sup>28</sup> The Psalms also concludes, **My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.** <sup>18</sup> <sup>29</sup>

Life is like a breath <sup>19</sup> <sup>30</sup> or a vanishing vapor. James, chapter 4, verse 14, **Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a**

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<sup>16</sup> Job 8:9.

<sup>17</sup> Job 14:2.

<sup>18</sup> Psalm 102: 11.

<sup>19</sup> Psalm 39:5 - 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.

**mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**

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You might use your time wisely **by being a consistent example** of a Christian life before the world. God's word says to **be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** <sup>20</sup> <sub>32</sub>

Finally, you can use your time wisely by **seeking the Lord** while He may be found.

This is done through prayer. This recommendation is found in both the Old and the New Testaments!

Psalm, chapter 32, verse 6 says, **Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.** <sub>33</sub>

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<sup>20</sup> Colossians 4:5.

**In Second Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 2, we read,  
For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and  
in the day of salvation I helped you.” <sup>34</sup>**

**How do you spend your time?**

**Is it spent with an awareness of the Lord’s presence?**

**Do you focus on His priorities?**

**Beginning this morning, let’s really get serious about  
how you spend your time!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**