

Proverbs

Your Time

Introduction

Your time equals your life. If you waste your time, you waste your life. In learning how to live wisely, an honest examination of how you spend your time is critical.

Discussion Questions

- A plan without prayer is blind to the wisdom and way of God [16:1-3]. What plans do you regret having made in haste? Why doesn't prayerful planning get enough time in your own life?
- Wisdom directs us to seek counsel and advise when making plans [15:22]. Have you ever taken the time to seek out advice from others? Have you ever wasted time or missed an opportunity because you failed to get guidance? In what areas of life are you in most need of wise counsel?
- Procrastination is the friend of folly [6:6-11]. When it comes to using your time to end up where you want to be, diligence is the key [12:24]. What are the little time bandits that you find end up stealing minutes and hours of your week? What small investments in time do you wish you would have made in the past 12 months?
- Having an eternal perspective helps us avoid wasting our time on things that won't ultimately matter or last. Recognizing God's sovereignty over life can also force us to re-prioritize our time [21:30-31]. Have you ever felt the frustration of spending a lot of time on something, yet the result was not what you had planned or hoped for? What things do you have a lot of time invested in currently? What do those things indicate are important to you?

Think About It

There is a cumulative value in how you spend small amounts of time over a long period of time. There are great rewards for making small investments of time. There are grave consequences for consistently neglecting your time as well. You can't make up for lost time.

What Will You Do?

Make an honest assessment of your schedule. Determine in what ways you are spending, investing, or wasting your time. Order your priorities and create a plan to make the most of every opportunity, redeeming your time.

Renewing Your Mind

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [Ephesians 5:15-17]

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. [Proverbs 16:1-3]

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed. [Proverbs 15:22]

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. [Proverbs 27:1]

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. [Proverbs 19:21]

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. [Proverbs 16:9]

Prayer Requests

Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. [Psalms 90:12]

