

“I Don’t Have Enough Time”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from an article by Charles Hummel, “The Tyranny of the Urgent”)

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever wished for a thirty-hour day? Surely this extra time would relieve the tremendous pressure under which we live.
 - 1. Our lives leave a trail of unfinished tasks. Unanswered letters, unvisited friends, unread books, haunted quiet moments when we stop to evaluate what we have accomplished.
 - 2. But would that longer day really solve our problem? Wouldn't we be just as frustrated as we are now with a 24 hour day?
 - 3. Parkinson's Principle: “Work expands to fill all the available time.”
- B. It is not a matter of too few hours; it is a matter of too little wisdom.
 - 1. “Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important.” (Stephen Covey)
 - 2. “There is not enough time to do all of the nothing we want to do.” (Bill Watterson)
 - 3. “Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.)
 - 4. Psalm 90:12; Ecc. 8:5-6; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; James 4:13-15
- C. We need to learn to discern between the urgent and the important
 - 1. “Let me take some pressure off. Your problem is not discipline. Your problem is not organization. Your problem is not that you have yet to stumble upon the perfect schedule. And your problem is not that the folks at home demand too much of your time. The problem is this: there's not enough time to get everything done that you're convinced—or others have convinced you—needs to get done.” (Andy Stanley)
- D. Four reasons why people are very busy, but going nowhere in doing God's will or growing in faith:
 - 1. People often stay busy because of their egos. They want to appear important. In our society, the crowded schedule shows how successful or important a person is. We have come to gauge people, including ourselves, by activity and performance.
 - 2. People often stay busy as a cover up for laziness. Running around in a lot of extracurricular activities is a way to avoid more important or difficult responsibilities.
 - 3. People often stay busy because of greed. Some people are never satisfied; enough is never enough.
 - 4. People often stay busy because they are more concerned about pleasing men rather than God. They have never learned to say “no” to what others want, often setting aside what God wants in order to do it. Biblical priorities and God's will for us must determine our activities rather than the wants or even the needs of people - Acts 6:1-4, 7.

I. ACCEPT PRIORITIES

- A. We have lost sight of what is important. We place our wants and interests and the needs of others on equal footing with what God wants us to do
- B. Jesus had enough time to do everything He was sent to do in this world because He started with God's purposes before His own wants and needs
 - 1. John 17:4, 6:38, 8:28-29
 - 2. He stayed busy with God's will, even though others questioned His priorities - Mark 1:32-34, 3:20-21
 - 3. "Here in this Man is adequate purpose, inward rest that gives an air of leisure to His crowded life. Above all there is in this Man a secret and a power of dealing with the waste-products of life, the waste of pain, disappointment, enmity, death, making a short life of about thirty years, abruptly cut off, to be a 'finished' life. We cannot admire the poise and beauty of this human life, and then ignore the things that made it." (A. E. Whiteham, The Discipline and Culture of the Spiritual Life)

II. ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS

- A. We often allow too many others to tell us what we need to do, instead of accepting the single authority of direction in our lives.
- B. Jesus took His instructions from God - Mark 1:35
 - 1. He put the demands and expectations of others second - Mark 1:36-38
 - 2. Even when others expressed great urgency - John 11:3-6
 - 3. Even though it may have caused Him pain - Isa. 53:3

III. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. We allow ourselves to become overwhelmed by the pressure of so many demands from so many sources that we begin to feel helpless and out of control of our own time.
 - 1. In fact, we have all of power and control of decision making in the use of our time.
- B. Accept responsibility and choose to act
 - 1. Learn what we have been doing with our time - Ex. 18:17-21
 - 2. Learn what God wants us to do - Prov. 16:9; Matt. 6:33
 - 3. Create a budget for our time - Prov. 21:5
 - 4. Implement the budget in real time - Prov. 14:23
 - 5. Evaluate our experiences for improvements - Gal. 6:4
 - 6. Stay in control of the time budget - 1Cor. 15:58