

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Text: Ephesians 5:15 – 20

Six statements in this passage, which will be of interest for our study:

- Be very careful then how you live,
- Making the most of every opportunity,
- Understand what the Lord's will is,
- Be filled with the Spirit,
- Speak to one another with Psalm, hymns and spiritual songs
- Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Life is an 'Equal Opportunity Employer'

Ecclesiasts 9:11

"The race is not for the Swift, battle for the strong, food to the wise, wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned. But time and chance happen to them all!"

Some versions: Time and opportunity happen to them all!

Time and opportunity, "Time for what ...?"

Eccl. 3:1 – 11 'a time for everything.'

"A time to be born, a time to die, a time for ..."

'A time for this and a time for that' and so on ...'

The amazing conclusion is verse 11, "He has made everything good in its time!"

(Get five volunteers and go through what 'they say', they – society/ sociologists – say,)

Mile Stones of a Journey through Life

- 18 year old – Considered an adult,
- Perhaps start work
 - Able to vote
 - may leave home for further education

21 year olds

- Achieve independence,
- Start a career
- Complete training

25 – 35

- Build work and personal relationships
- Building career
- Raising a family

40 year olds

- Family most likely to leave home
- More likely to be settled at work
- May be earning more and able to afford more holidays

45 – 60 year olds,

- Early retirement for some
- Time of building upon achievements
- Likelihood of becoming grand parent

65 – 75 year olds

- Older adult
- Retire from work and receive pension
- New hobbies and interests may develop,
- Time for parents to spend time together,
- May become more dependant,

80+ May become more dependant,

What is God Saying to us? Today, how should we respond

1. Where ever you are it is not a mistake
2. Our responsibility is to be careful how we live & make the most of every opportunity
3. To help us make the most of every opportunity, we need to understand what the will of the Lord is. His good, pleasing and perfect will, (Romans 12:2b)
Verse 2a says: 'Change the way you think!'
If you think like the world thinks you will get what the world gets,
But if your thought process/the way you think is transformed, (Example of Caterpillar changing to butterfly, transformation/metamorphosis)
If you wash your brain with the word of God, you will be able to recognise the will of God.
4. To help us do that we need the Holy Spirit of God.
"It is not my might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord"
5. To be filled by the Spirit of the Lord, we need some songs, spiritual songs, "Come to him with singing ..."
6. We also need to be Thankful! Always giving thanks for who we are and where we are in life.
 - If you continually complain and grumble you attract snakes.
 - Sometimes it is like a fashion to complain about weather, murmur about every thing.

The Bible says, "Do everything without grumbling or complaining ..." Philip. 2:14,15

Recap and Prayer.