

PANTAI BAPTIST CHURCH
.....
PETALING JAYA

AN EXHORTATION

to make the best use of
our time for the days are evil.

EPH 5:16

THE PRECIOUSNESS OF TIME

JONATHAN EDWARDS (1734)

**“Teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom”**

- PSALM 90:12

Jonathan Edwards

1703-1758



Jonathan Edwards is a great theologian and philosopher of British American Puritanism. He is associated as the man behind the “**Great Awakening**” (1740-42) in America in the 18th century. One of his beloved books titled “***The Preciousness of Time***” is a favorite topic for sermons. Edwards teaches us to have a God-centered management of time.

His many other books include **The Freedom of the Will**, **Religious Affections** and **The Justice of God in the damnation of Sinners**. A few of his best quotes are as follows:

- How can you expect to dwell with GOD forever if you so neglect and forsake Him here?
- Nature is God’s greatest evangelist
- He who has Christ has all he needs and no more
- He who lives a prayerless life lives without GOD in the world
- You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it.

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Foreword



TIME IS PRECIOUS. On my bookshelf is a book titled “*Chasing Daylight*” written by Eugene O’Kelly who was Chairman and CEO of KPMG USA in 2005. Life could not have been better for him and his family. But in the spring of May 2005, at the age of 53 he was told by his doctor that he had late stage brain cancer and given three months to live. What do you do with three months of life ?

Eugene O’Kelly resigned from his job and scrapped all his plans for a life that would not exist anymore. Instead he focused on the time he had at hand. He began to make a timeline for the next 100 days or so of his life on earth. He drew a cluster of concentric circles and began to put groups of people he must meet to bid goodbye starting from the outer circle and working toward the center from the less





significant to the most significant relationship which was his wife, the last person he would bid farewell.

When you have 100 days to live, nothing matters anymore, not wealth, not health but the preciousness of time. Recently I spoke at the wake of my friend who died at age 76. On his tombstone are inscribed these words, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* His time on earth was well spent.

I pray we will do the same with the time we have at hand. I pray you will be wiser reading this ebooklet on the **“The Preciousness of Time.”**

Elder Bryan Lee



WHY TIME IS PRECIOUS

Time is very short, which renders it very precious. Our life, what is it? It is but a vapour which appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.” **James. 4:14.** It is but as a moment to eternity. The work which we have to do to prepare for eternity, must be done in time, or it never can be done.

Time is very precious because when it is past, it cannot be recovered. There are many things which men possess, which if they part with, they can obtain them again. But it is not so with respect to time. When once that is gone, it is gone forever; no cost will recover it. Though we repent ever so much that we let it pass, and did not improve it while we had it, it will be to no purpose.

Eternity depends on what we do with our time while we are on earth and living. Once death comes, we have no more to do with time.

You have an eternity before you. GOD has given you this precious thing called time and He has given it to you to do the good works He has planned for you. Don't waste any of it.

An hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, resting on a sandy beach. The top bulb of the hourglass is partially filled with dark sand, while the bottom bulb is mostly empty, with a thin stream of sand falling from the narrow neck. The background features a serene sunset scene with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting off the ocean waves. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST

Consider, therefore, what you have done with time that has passed. How have you let the precious golden sands of your hourglass run? What has become of them all?

And if GOD should now call you to an account of it, what account would you give to Him? You have not only had ordinary time, but you have had a great deal of holy time. What have you done with all the Sabbath-days?

Think seriously on these things, and let your own consciences make an answer.

THE BIBLE'S REPROOF ON TIME WASTERS

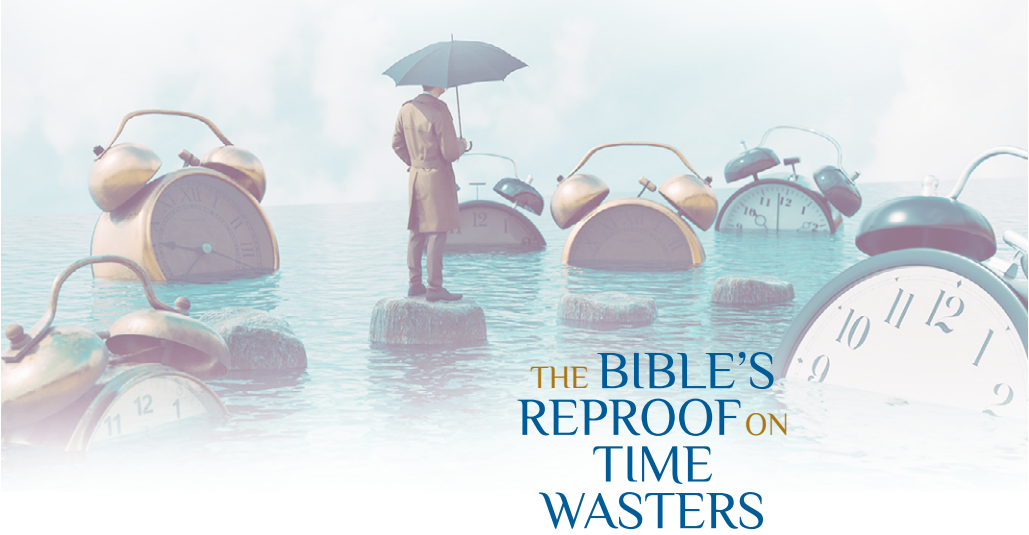


If men were as lavish of their money as they are of their time, if it were as common a thing for them to throw away their money, as it is for them to throw away their time, we should think they are not in possession of their right minds.

There are several sorts of persons who are reproved by this doctrine.

- 1. *Those who spend their time in idleness.*** They spend a great part of their time in doing nothing that turns to any good to their souls or bodies; or for the benefit of their neighbor, or of the family or of the community to which they belong.





- 2. *Those who spend their time doing evil.*** Some not only lose their time, but they do worse. They use it to hurt both themselves and others by doing things that are evil. They revel in bad company and they corrupt and ensnare the weak and unstable minds. They stir up strife and contention, often quarrelling among themselves.
- 3. *Those who spend their time only in worldly pursuits.*** Many who spend their time ever so diligently in their worldly business neglect their souls and that of their children. Consider this – you have spent a great part of your time and strength in getting a little of the world; what lasting happiness or satisfaction can you reap from it? Will it give you peace of conscience as you approach death and eternity?

And what will all that you have acquired avail you when time shall be no longer yours?



EXHORTATION TO IMPROVE BALANCE OF TIME

If Christians would keep this in mind that we are GOD's servants and a servant is accountable to his master, we would improve on what we do with our time, or the balance of it. How would you spend today if you have now to give an account to GOD in the evening? May this awaken you to stop letting things run on in this manner any longer.

Sometimes men think that since they have lost so much time, it is quite pointless to attempt to do anything now. The devil makes fools of them; for when they are young, he tells them, there is time enough hereafter, there is no need to be in haste to seek salvation and they believe him. When their youth is past, he tells them that now they have lost



EXHORTATION TO IMPROVE BALANCE OF TIME

so much of their time, it is not worth their while to attempt to do anything; and they believe him too.

Though it is late in the day, yet GOD calls upon you to wake up, and to apply yourselves to your work. And will you not hearken to His counsel?

Waste not any more time in useless diversions or amusements. You need to improve every talent, advantage, and opportunity, to your utmost, while time lasts.

For unexpectedly, time may be no more.



PRAYER



Heavenly Father, forgive us for wasting so much of the time that You have given to us on useless things. We repent of precious time lost in the past and pray for strength, guidance and direction to make good use of the remaining time left on earth.

Teach us Lord to number our days for all flesh is like grass which withers and fades (Isaiah 40: 6,7). Help us to spend our time wisely this day forth so that we may know You more and love You more for that is the reason why Christ came - to reconcile us to You and to prepare us to live in eternity with You.

We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Acknowledgements

1. APM. The Preciousness of Time and the Importance of Redeeming it.

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4. The Aquila Report. 13 June 2020. Megan Taylor. Time on our Hands : Jonathan Edwards on the Preciousness of Time.

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This epublication by Pantai Baptist Church Petaling Jaya is produced for the edification and encouragement of GOD's flock here to walk right with GOD, to obey all His commandments, to continually repent of our wrongdoings that offend and grieve Him, and to diligently study His word that we may be sanctified by the truth daily and become more and more like Christ, our Saviour.