

Some people do not do what could be done in the present because they have improper priorities. They have things that need to be done today in their minds. The good things that should be done they postpone to a later day. To help someone in need is an opportunity that is passing. Tomorrow he will not need your help. Someone else provided his aid while you delayed. Proverbs 27:1 says, *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”* Another obligation can come up tomorrow that will hinder my plans to do good. I could be sick (very likely in our current climate). Maybe my car won't start. Perhaps a family emergency will spring up. We do not know what will happen tomorrow, and so we need to use today to do what is right.

Consider this poem someone wrote:

## **Tomorrow**

He was going to be all that moral should be, tomorrow!  
No one should be kinder nor braver than he, tomorrow!

A friend who was troubled and weary he knew,  
Who'd be glad of a lift and needed it too,  
On him he would call and see what he could do, tomorrow.

Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write, tomorrow!  
And thought of the folks he'd fill with delight, tomorrow!

It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today,  
And hadn't a minute to stop on the way;  
More time he'd have to give others he'd say, tomorrow!

The greatest of workers this man would have been tomorrow!  
The world would have known him had he ever seen tomorrow!

But the fact is he died and faded from view,  
And all that he left here when living was through  
Was a mountain of things he intended to do tomorrow!

# **Mooreville church of Christ**

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

**April 5, 2020**

### **Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

3:00 p.m. Worship

### **Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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## **Announcements**

**What will  
happen to  
you if there is  
no tomorrow**

# Good Stewards of Time

Ron Roberts

One effect of the Coronavirus is a restructuring of our time. Our kids are no longer in school. Dad is encouraged to work from home. Theaters, restaurants, and travel facilities are closed. Although many of us have not been quarantined through the illness, we all have spent more time in isolation to protect ourselves and others from the virus.

With more time at home we have opportunities to do things that have been put on hold before. We clean more, organize more, and sit more. Gas prices are low, but who needs gas when you are not allowed to go anywhere. My wife is shampooing carpets. I am writing additional bulletins for the weeks ahead.

Time is one blessing we all have. It is the increments of which life is made. Life consists of years, decades, and portions of centuries. As stewards under God's rule, we need to use the time we have in a way that glorifies Him. We must do what God commands with our life and our time. Pray, study, and meditate in your new situation.

James 4 reminds us that we are not in control of our time on this earth. A man may make plans to travel, engage in business, and make a profit in the next year; but he does not know if God will allow him to live long enough to do what he plans (vs. 13-17).

We use phrases like, "*make time*", "*find time*", and "*save time*". In reality we cannot make one second. Time is a gift from God. Finding time is not necessary. It was never lost. We just chose to use it in a different way. Time cannot be saved either. There is no bank, box, or safe where you can drop in hours or years, and pull them out when you have determined it is now that you need more time. Time marches on. Whether we use it, waste it, ignore it or embrace it; time passes.

Ecc. 3:1-8 gives us a list of appropriate activities that match up with proper times. There is a *time to plant*. You can plant at a different time than the right one, but it will not be as productive. You will waste a great deal of energy for little or no gain. The time to plant is early spring. It will not work as well to plant in the winter or the summer. There is a right time to *gather*, to *scatter*, to *embrace*, and to *refrain* from it. This is the best use of our time. Do the right thing at the appropriate time. Seize the opportunity while it is available.

Eph. 5:15-16 says, "*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*" The word "*circumspectly*" is translated "*carefully*" in some versions. It comes from the Greek word "*akribos*" which means "*exactly*". The idea is that each step is planned, planted, and removed with great care. It is done with the wisdom that time is limited.

The Greek word for "*Redeeming*" is "*exagorazo*". It means to "*buy up, ransom, to rescue from loss (improve opportunity).*" Thus, to redeem time means to make the best use of time. Use your opportunities in the best way you can. When he states the reason for this action, he says, "*because the days are evil.*" The time could be wasted doing evil like the people of the world do. The time could also be used fighting against evil when we have the opportunity. Never fail to do good when you have the chance. James 4:17 says, "*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him is it sin.*" As stewards of the time God has given us, we will be judged for how we spend it.

Some of us spend all our time worrying about the future. "When will the virus end? Will the economy recover? Will I find any bread at the grocery store?" Jesus told us, "*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*" While we are worrying about tomorrow we are failing to act against the evil of the present.

Some of us spend all our time regretting the past. "*We are sorry we did not spend more time with our kids when they were growing up. We regret not paying attention at worship services. We wished we had not spent our money on that foolish purchase...*" We cannot enjoy the blessings of the present because we are mired in the sorrow of the past. Repentance is the way we dismiss the sins of the past from our minds and God's, and move forward into the present and toward the future. God gives us a clean slate at baptism. Take advantage of your new position. Forget the past and do what needs to be done in the present (Phil. 3:13-14).