

Wasted Time

Ponder: How are you using your time?

Scripture: “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15, 16).

David Cassidy, one of the stars of the old TV program “The Partridge Family,” passed away Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at the age of 67. His daughter revealed that his last words were, “so much wasted time.”

Time is one commodity of which we all have the same amount each day, and we cannot get it back once it is gone. I have never heard of people on their deathbed saying, “I wish I had spent more time at work” or “I wish I hadn’t spent so much time reading my Bible and praying.” More likely, they lament having spent so little time with their loved ones, so little time in worship, and so much time working.

Christians, above all others, should recognize that our time ought to be spent glorifying God. That may involve work, spending time with family, reading the Word, teaching others, and helping the poor. Whatever we do, let our purpose be to honor God.

Paul said to “redeem” (buy up) the time because the days were evil. Our days, too, are plagued with evil. We must not waste our time participating in that evil! Rather, let us “walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time” (Colossians 4:5). The very next verse gives one important example of the wise way we ought to use our time: “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (v. 6).

David Cassidy was right: “so much wasted time!” A godly elder in a congregation I once served put it this way. “Whatever I do today I’m exchanging a day of my life for it.”

How are you using your time?

Song: “Swiftly We’re Turning Life’s Daily Pages”

Prayer: Father, we thank You for every day of life You give us. We confess that we waste much time. Help us, we pray, to redeem the time, and to glorify you by the way we spend it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.