

## Tools Of The Trade - Week 5

Series Focal Passage: James 3:13

**Bible Passages:** Read Ephesians 5:15-16

### Background:

Eph. 5:16 making the best use of. This phrase translates the Greek *exagorazō*, which can also mean “redeem” or “purchase.” Christians must actively take advantage of the opportunity to do good (cf. Ps. 90:12). Wisdom is especially needed in an evil age where the pathway of holiness is not always immediately clear until one reflects upon God's Word and discerns his holy will.

### First Thoughts:

Looking back on my life, I remember when I was younger thinking “I have plenty of time.” Now I look back on life asking myself, “Where has time gone?” We all have the same allotment of time to use in a day yet not all the same amount of time to live. Today we will evaluate how we are spending our time as well as ask ourselves if we need to rearrange any priorities. How can we live our lives so that when we are at the end of our earthly journey, we can look back with no regrets?

### Talking Points:

- Give a brief outline of your daily schedule? What could be considered “Wasted” time? How much wasted time do you have in your daily schedule? What about in a week?
- What do you consider to be the least important in your schedule? What do you consider to be the most important time in your schedule? Why?
- How much time, would you say in your week, is intentionally set aside for spiritual growth? (church, quiet time, prayer, bible study, small group etc.)
- Read Ephesians 5:15-16. What are some of the distractions of life that can keep us from using our time wisely? What tugs for your time?
- What is Paul saying when he says, “make the most of every opportunity? What could he be hinting at?
- Take a sheet of paper and pencil and rewrite in your own words Ephesians 5:15-16.
- What is the difference between a good use of time and a wise use of time?

### Growing Spiritually:

You can tell others what your priorities are, but what shows us your priorities is how you spend your time. What is an investment of time that you could do in each of these areas (Physically, Relationally, Professionally, Spiritually) that if you were to do it everyday over a period of time that you would look back and say to yourself that was a great investment. Write down those four things those with your small group for accountability.

Prayer: Father, help us be a wise steward of the resource you have given me called time. Help me to identify those things that step in a rob of me of using my time wisely. Give me the strength out of conviction to say, “I am doing a good work and I can’t come down” as Nehemiah did. Guard my steps and help me continue to examine my time while making the most of every opportunity I am given. Holy spirit help me be sensitive to your guidance in my life while always asking myself, “what is the wise thing to do?”



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