

The Steward's Heart

Be Found Faithful

Series core theme: God doesn't want pieces of our lives managed well—He wants our whole heart surrendered faithfully to Him.

Foundational Text: Psalm 24:1 *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

Key Truth: Biblical stewardship begins with recognizing God's ownership of all we have. It is the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us—time, resources, gifts, influence, and the gospel itself—for God's glory and His purposes.

At the core of biblical stewardship is the Gospel itself.

- Before we steward our time...
- Before we steward our gifts...
- Before we steward our resources...

We are called to steward the message of Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:1–2: *"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."*

Text for today: Ephesians 5:15-17

Big Idea: Faithful stewardship involves intentional living—using our time in alignment with God's will.

1. Redeeming Time Requires Careful Living (v.15)

- V.15 is connected to Proverbs 15:21.
- Live aware that your life belongs to God. Careless living assumes time is ours; wise living sees time as entrusted to us by God.
- Our problem is not too little time in our lives, but making better use of the time we have. Time lost can never be retrieved.

Supporting Scripture

- Psalm 90:12, Proverbs 4:26

Application: This week, identify one recurring habit (social media scrolling, overworking, over-committing) that consumes time without producing fruit—and consciously surrender that habit back to God. Ask God to help you form new, healthy habits.

2. Redeem Time Requires Wise Urgency (v.16)

- In v.16 the phrase "making the best use of" means to **redeem**—to *intentionally reclaim* what is being wasted.
- Paul is saying the culture is corrupt, opposed to God, spiritually dark.
- The moral climate of Ephesus was saturated with idolatry, immorality, and distraction. (Much like ours.)
- The evil of the age seeks to: Distract you, drain you, numb you and entertain you into passivity.

- Redeeming time is an act of resistance to the evil at work in the world and it is an act of worship to God.
 - What opportunities has God placed in front of you right now? What obedience have you been delaying? Where is the enemy trying to waste your time?

Supporting Scripture

- 1 Peter 5:8, Romans 13:11-12.

Application: Choose one block of time this week (10–15 minutes daily or one longer block) to intentionally redeem – invest time in Scripture, prayer, and/or relational discipleship.

3. Redeeming Time Requires Understanding God’s Will (v.17)

- Paul warns against living on autopilot and he moves from action to alignment.
- You cannot redeem time if you don’t know what matters to God.
 - Foolishness in this context isn’t low intelligence — it’s misaligned living. It’s living without reference to God’s purposes.
- God’s will isn’t hidden—it’s revealed to those who seek Him with humility.
- Wisdom isn’t knowing God’s will *in theory*, but obeying it *in practice*.
- God’s will includes: Your sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3), your gratitude (1 Thess. 5:18), your submission to Christ (Luke 9:23), your love for others (John 13:34-35), your witness to the world (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Redeeming time isn’t about busyness, it’s about heart alignment. You can be extremely busy and eternally unproductive.

Supporting Scripture

- Psalm 143:8, Romans 12:1-2.

Application: Ask daily: “*Lord, how do You want me to steward today?*” Write down one specific step of obedience—and act on it.

Conclusion

Stewardship isn’t ultimately about time management—it’s about **heart alignment**.

Psalm 86:11, “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.”

This week:

- **Walk carefully — because your life belongs to Him.**
- **Redeem the time — because the days are evil.**
- **Seek understanding — because alignment matters more than activity.**