
This is How the Work Gets Done

EPHESIANS 5:15-17

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¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:16 - ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. (NLT)

If the work is important, then there should be a sense of urgency;

There should always be an urgency to the Christian's work, mainly because we know or should know how fleeting time really is.

*One of the biggest lies the devil tells Christians is
“There is plenty of time”*

*Psalm 90:12 - ¹² Teach us to realize the brevity of
life, so that we may grow in wisdom.*

It is the shortness of this life and the limited time that we can actually work for God that should instill in us a sense of urgency.

The fact that we do not know when the Master is returning that should make us diligent in our work

The first thing we need to do this morning is pray for that sense of urgency that will keep us from laziness.

To engage in pressing work, you also must believe in the work; that what you are doing is over the uttermost importance.

You and I must believe in our calling and respond to it.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (AMP)

*¹⁵ Therefore see that you walk carefully [living life with honor, purpose, and courage; shunning those who tolerate and enable evil], not as the unwise, but as wise [sensible, intelligent, discerning people], ¹⁶ making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence], because the days are [filled with] evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish and thoughtless, but understand and firmly grasp what the will of the Lord is.
(AMP)*

Colossians 4:5 - ⁵ Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders (non-believers), make the most of each opportunity [treating it as something precious]. (AMP)

There is a huge difference between having a ministry and actually ministering to a person.

We are all called to minister to people. It does not matter how much you or I love behind the scenes work; we cannot escape ministering to people.

Why is it those times of being able to minister are precious? (Colossians 4:5). People are precious. The presence of the Holy Spirit is precious.

The meeting of the two, the Holy Spirit and a person in need of a touch from God is the most precious and powerful thing we can facilitate

Noah took ownership of the task because people needed him too. What made Noah's work so important were the lives he touched and effected

God never calls anyone to unimportant work

1 Corinthians 15:58 - ⁵⁸ So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless (NLT)

1 Peter 4:11 - ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. (NLT)

For every person Jesus saves, He also anoints and empowers for service

Zechariah 4:8-10 - ⁸ Then another message came to me from the Lord: ⁹ “Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has sent me. ¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand. (NLT)

When God's calls you to a task, He will empower you to finish the work.

*“When it comes time to die, make sure all you have to do is die” –
Jim Eliot*

Galatians 6:9 - ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up (NLT)

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, who will thwart our plans and frustrate our ways time and again, even daily, by sending people across our path with their demands and requests. We can, then, pass them by, preoccupied with our important daily tasks, just as the priest-perhaps reading the Bible-passed by the man who had fallen among robbers. When we do that, we pass by the visible sign of the Cross raised in our lives to show us that God's way, and not our own, is what counts - Dietrich Bonhoeffer