TITLE: Redeeming the Time

TEXT: Ephe. 5:14-17; Jn. 3:16; 2nd Co. 5:21; Ps. 90:12; Job 14:5; Ps. 39:4-5

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about time.

 When you think about it Time is really a precious commodity.. The older that we become all the more precious a commodity time seems to become.

 All time is in the hand of God. God is the one who distributes time to all of us. The time that God gives us in this life may vary from person to person but the time that God gives is always sufficient for His purpose for us in this life.

 Sufficient, that is, if we use it as He has intended.

**Ephe 5:14 (NKJV) Therefore He says:**

**"Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead,**

**And Christ will give you light."**

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**].

**Ephe 5:15 (NIV) Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,**

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

What is God’s will for us? To redeem the time that He has given us.

As Christians, we have been called to redeem the time.

We have been called to make the most of every opportunity with the time that we have been given.

 Why is it important that we redeem the time? That we make the most of every opportunity with the time that we have?

 Because the days are evil!

 How many see that the days that we life in today contain much evil?

 Over the last almost 2 years we have seen the evil of the pestilence of Covid 19 and the evil of how it has been weaponized politically to enhance political power.

 We have evil regimes pushing closer and closer to nuclear capability and once they have it will put the whole planet in jeopardy.

 We see the evil of sexual perversity rampant in our nation today where evil is being called good and good is being called evil.

 Everyday many fall under the oppression and bondage of things such as drug or alcohol addiction in our nation showing the days to be evil.

 In speaking to you and I, His Church, God says: Because the days are evil, redeem the time!

 We are to redeem the time!

 Just what does that mean? To redeem the time?

**1805 exagorazo {ex-ag-or-ad'-zo}**

**1) to redeem**

**1a) by payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off**

**1b) metaph. of Christ freeing the elect from the dominion of the Mosaic Law at the price of his vicarious death**

**2) to buy up, to buy up for one's self, for one's use**

**2a) to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase**

 There are two aspects to our redeeming the time..

 First, we need to be redeemed! We need to have the time that God has given us to be redeemed.

 Redeemed **by payment of a price to recover from the power of another.**

Before we came to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ we were owned by another! We were owned by the Devil! He had power over us.

 It was the cross of Calgary that made our redemption possible.

 It is on the cross of Calgary that our ransom was paid.

 God paid the price of our redemption!

John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

 Paul talk’s about that redemption price….

2Cor 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

 Through Jesus we were redeemed by payment of a price! By the price of the blood of Christ we were recovered from the power of another!

 This is to be our first act of redeeming the time. To accept the price that Jesus paid for our redemption.

 To come to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin and allow Him to buy us back for God!

 Then from that time on “we” are to redeem the time because the days are evil!

We redeem the time by **making wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are the purchase!**

 As a Christian time and what we do with it becomes our most precious commodity.

-- William Law once said:

 Where did we come up with this concept of "spare time," anyway? Is there any time for which we aren't accountable to God? Is there any time during which God doesn't care what you are doing? No Christian has ever had spare time. You may have spare time from labor or necessity, you may stop working and refresh yourself, but no Christian ever had time off from living like a Christian.

 As a Christian we redeem the time by living Christ-like lives! We redeem the time by allowing God to be the God of our moments. Give Him control of our moments!.

 King David…..

**Psal 90:12 (NIV) Teach us to number our days aright,**

**that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

 Philip Yancey tells of a painting in the Prado Museum in Spain by Hans Baldung titled "The Stages of Life with Death."

 On the ground is a newborn baby. The baby is surrounded by three elongated figures. In the left of the painting is a beautiful young woman--nearly nude, alabaster skin, hair flowing down her back, the perfect picture of classical beauty.

 Next to her in the middle is an old hag, a shriveled old woman with a hard, angular, mean-looking face. With one arm she is reaching out and grabbing the shoulder of the beautiful young girl, and with a sneer she is pulling her toward herself. With her other arm she is interlocked with a third person, a creature--man or woman you cannot tell, for all features have been melted down into a rotting corpse--holding an hourglass. There it is--birth, youth, old age, lived in the presence of death.

 We all live in the presence of death, but what things have we put off because we have forgotten the reality of death? So Scripture teaches us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom. Teaches us to number our days, so that we will not fail the time in which we have been placed, so that we do not unwittingly aid the Enemy in the ruination of our souls.

 So Scripture tells us to **redeem the time, because the days are evil.**

The great question is,how effective are we being in redeeming the time that we have been given?

 What priority do we give to the time that we have?

 Peter Lynch, former manager of the Magellan Fund, who left his job in 1990 at 46, the age his father was when he died, to devote time to his family and his favorite Boston charities said this:

 “ Nobody on his deathbed ever said: "I wish I'd spent more time at the office."

 I doubt that anyone who is nearing the end of life, who is looking death in its face has ever said I wished that I would have spent more time at work, or spent more time making money, or spent more time watching tv or spent more time fretting over things that others have done to me!

 Why? Because the less time we have the more precious time becomes! The less time that we have the less apt we will be to waste it!

Because once time is spent you can’t get it back!

 Each of us has a set amount of time here on this earth.

 Some more than others but all of us have a set amount of time.

**Job 14:5 (NIV) Man's days are determined;**

**you have decreed the number of his months**

**and have set limits he cannot exceed.**

Our days have been determined! God has already decreed the number of our months! We all have limits of time that we cannot exceed!

 King David had an interesting perspective on life in regards to the time that we have on this earth…

**Psal 39:4 (NIV) "Show me, O LORD, my life's end**

**and the number of my days;**

**let me know how fleeting is my life.**

**5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth;**

**the span of my years is as nothing before you.**

**Each man's life is but a breath. Selah**

**"Show me, O LORD, my life's end**

**and the number of my days;**

**let me know how fleeting is my life.**

Why is it important for us to come to a realization just how fleeting our life really is? Come to realize just how few our days really are?

 Because when we come to the realization of just how fleeting life really is, how few our days really are then time will become more precious to us! Time will become a commodity in life that we will not want to waste but we will want to redeem!

Redeem by **making wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good!**

 -- Samuel Johnson

*He that would pass the latter part of his life with honor and decency, must, when he is young, consider that he shall one day be old; and remember, when he is old, that he has once been young.*

 Young people this morning, in order to redeem the time that you have been given, consider that one-day you will be old! One day you will look back and see more time spent then time left!

 Consider that fact and you will more likely redeem your time now! Redeem it by being wise with it, by using your time wisely!

 Older people this morning, in order to redeem the time that you have left consider that you once were young!

 Consider that you have already spent a good share of your time!

 It will make the time that you have left more valuable, more precious to you!

 You will become more apt to redeem the time that is yet before you. Redeem it by being wise with it. By using it wisely.

 We use time wisely by **making wise and sacred use of every opportunity we have for doing good!**

Time well spent is always a good investment!

 Making wise and sacred use of every opportunity we have for doing good is always a good investment of our time.

 In fact it is the only way that time will become an investment to us.

 You see we will do one of two things with time…

 We will either spend it or we will invest it.

 Merely spent time is time wasted. Invested time is time that has been redeemed..

Making wise and sacred use of every opportunity we have for doing good is using time as an investment! An investment that will one day reap a reward! Will pay a dividend! Accumulate interest!

 Using our time for any other purpose is just spending time! Spending it on momentary pleasures that have no lasting or eternal value. And once spent it’s gone and gone forever…

 There are millions of ways that we can literally waste the time that God has given us. Spend it on frivolous things.

 -- Will Rogers

*Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.*

 Yet how often do we do just that?

 How much time do we waste on things that happened yesterday?

 How much time do we waste by being consumed by things that may have been done to us in the past.

 Wasted time on being consumed with past failures or past grievances?

 Time we refuse to redeem because we won’t let go of things in the past.

 Time spent in anger! Time spent in self-pity! Time spent in unforgivness!

 All time that is wasted! Time that is spent, not invested!

 If we are a Christian, have a saving faith in Jesus Christ then we have been called, not to just spend our time but to redeem our time! Invest our time!

Make wise and sacred use of our time**! Making wise and sacred use of every opportunity we have for doing good!**

Many times that will require us to forgive what we may have viewed as unforgivable!

 It will require us to let go of yesterday and embrace tomorrow…

 Husbands, this morning, is the time you have with your wife time that is being spent or time that is being invested?

Wives this morning, is the time that you have with your husband’s time that is being spent or time that is being invested?

 Parents this morning, is the time with your children time spent or time invested?

 Children this morning, is the time that you have with your parents time spent or time invested?

 When you are in the workplace or marketplace or schoolhouse is your time spent or is it invested?

 Are you redeeming the time that you have been given?

 Are you making wise and sacred use of every opportunity that you have for doing good?

 And most importantly, as a Christian, as a disciple of Jesus Christ are you redeeming the time?

Are you making wise and sacred use of every opportunity that you have for doing good?

 Is our time, the time that God has given us, being spent or is it being invested?

 Invested in His Kingdom where it will reap a reward in a place where time is no more but just an eternity of fellowship with God!

 Church, time is the most precious gift that God has given you!

 The question is what kind of steward are we being with this precious gift of God?

 Are we just spending it or are we investing it? Redeeming it for the days are evil and it is only time that has been redeemed, redeemed for God that will make a real difference in the evil filled world in which we live.

 Have you, are you redeeming the time that God has given you this morning?