

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Redeeming the time

By: Jerry Fite

Paul encouraged the saints and faithful brethren of Colossae to “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” (Colossians 4:6). This demand is upon all Christians for Paul exhorted the saints in Ephesus to “look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise but as wise redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16). In the midst of evil times, the Christian does not become inactive, wringing his or her hands in discouragement. Instead, he or she focuses upon and busies oneself in “redeeming the time”.

Paul’s admonition to redeem time means to seize the opportunities to influence the world outside of Christ to come to Christ. We all have the ability to influence, so the opportunities will come. Being responsible for those opportunities is the main point of the parable of the talents. The master gives to his servants various amounts of money to manage. “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability; and he went on his journey” (Matthew 25:15). The talents were not “abilities” they were the weight of money given

to each one according to the servant’s respective ability to manage. The money in the parable, represents the opportunities we have to be productive in the cause of our master, Jesus Christ. We will be held responsible in judgment on how we managed those opportunities for growth in the kingdom of the Lord.

While God will give us opportunities for service in accordance with our abilities, we also create the atmosphere for more opportunities to develop. Paul says, “walk in wisdom toward them that are without”. The world is constantly observing the character of the Christian’s walk in life. Questions will arise from observant individuals who wonder why you do not live like the world lives. You must be ready to seize these moments that godly living provides you. Peter exhorts Christians to “...sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15).

In our evil times when sowing to the flesh reaps ruined lives and broken homes, the person may look to you and see that

Christianity is not just focused upon heaven. Living for Christ will cause one to look at his or her present body as a temple of God, and keep it holy (I Corinthians 6:18-20) Living for Christ will cause a husband and a wife to love and submit in a healthy life long relationship on earth (Ephesians 5:22-33). Living for Christ will give you the opportunity to give answer to those who no longer have an answer in the world of sin.

Not only how we live gives us opportunities, but how we speak is equally important in developing opportunities to redeem. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:6). Salt not only purifies and preserves, but it adds zest to that which it touches. Our speech should be so full of grace and zest that causes the world to take notice that living for Christ is not a dull existence. People ought to be edified or built up by our words (Ephesians 4:29).

Opportunities will appear when we live and speak as we should. We must then seize the moment for the cause of Christ.