

Bless This Mess Part Two

Living with Purpose

Introduction

Read: Ephesians 5:15-20

1. The passage we just read tells us God desires us to make the time we have been given purposeful and impactful to the people around us!
2. With so many distractions around, we can often end up mis-managing our time if we aren't careful. Nevertheless, if we choose to use our time God's way, He will bless it!
3. Being a good steward of our time begins with living each day intentionally and purposefully.
4. Being the best steward we can be takes discipline, focus and action.
5. Let's delve into some steps we can immediately take to become a better steward of our time by living with purpose!

I. Maximise Each Day

- A. God put time into place and said that it is “good”, so the number of hours we have in each day is a perfect amount of time for what God has called us to do (Gen 1:3)!**
- B. Prioritise the absolute essentials in each day.**
E.g. Devotional time with God, assignments and projects with deadlines, etc.
- C. Plan ahead today for tomorrow's schedule – that helps us to be focused on what we need to do for the day.**
- D. Plan for sufficient rest (Read Gen 2:3).**
Even God took time to rest after all his creations! A lack of sleep calls for an unproductive tomorrow.

Discuss!

Connect group leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

*What are the “non-negotiables” we should start implementing from today onwards?
E.g. Family time, praise and worship, prayer and devotionals, completing assignments on time, etc.*

II. Follow Through With Our Plans

- A. Persevere and act on the plans God has directed us to make.**
E.g. If your plan is to start sleeping at waking up on time, get off your cell phone 30 mins before sleep time!

*Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will.
Then you will receive all that he has promised.*

- Hebrews 10:36

B. Complete our priorities before rewarding ourselves!

C. Say “NO” to unproductive non-priorities.

E.g. Watching YouTube for hours, scrolling through Instagram stories non-stop.

D. Change the strategy, not the goal.

When we fail, analyse, re-strategise, and take action. Don't shift our goals!

III. Choose To Live An Exemplary Life

A. God desires to empower us to live out the purpose He has for us through the Holy Spirit (v18-20).

B. Run away from anything that the Holy Spirit nudges us not to!

Just like Joseph (Gen 39:10), when he ran away from doing wrong though no one knew it, it preserved God's purpose in his life.

C. Take time to thank and praise God each day (v.20).

D. Encourage others, too, to press on to the goals they have set for themselves!

Conclusion

1. In order to use our time wisely, we need to live with purpose.
2. Breakthrough in using our time well comes with intentional planning and perseverance.
3. Our lives will be an example to others as we rely on the Holy Spirit, thank Him and praise Him!

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we would choose Godly living over our own desires.
- b) Pray for wisdom in our planning, and for godly and wise friends in our lives!
- c) Spend a minute or two praising and thanking God individually and as a connect group.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*