

The Clock is Ticking, Choose to Make the Most of Your Time

Ge 1:1–5 (ESV) — 1 *In the beginning*, God created the heavens and the earth. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, *the first day*.

God created time!

Ge 2:16–17 (ESV) — 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “*You may surely eat of every tree of the garden*, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

God gave man freedom of choice to do good or bad! But with choice comes consequences. Good or Bad.

Listen to me carefully: I want to state this profound reality for you to consider.

Our time on earth is limited, and with every passing day, we makes choices that determine the status and quality of our eternal life, so we should take life seriously!

You have only one life to live to get this right! So pay attention!

Now, I want to discuss four major realities.

1. Time is invaluable and priceless!
2. Choice is invaluable and priceless.
3. Each day, God gives us time to make choices.
4. There are consequences for how we choose to use our time.

I. Time is invaluable and priceless! It was the first thing God created!

- A. The Bible begins with these words: “In the beginning”.
 1. This indicated it was the start of time. And if there is a beginning of time, there is an ending of time.
 2. Confirmation is also that day and night were created by God on the first day to symbolize the passing of time.
- B. Day and night came into existence in the creation. It did not exist before the creation’s beginning, and it will not exist after this creation has ended.
 1. Therefore, if time had a beginning, and time has an ending.
 - a. So, all time is limited. There will come a time when time will be no more.
 2. In eternity, time will not exist anymore.

- C. Time is universal. It is a resource that God has freely given and distributed equally to all individuals. He gives everyone the same 24 hours a day to work with. No one is shortchanged.
1. Regardless of your background, wealth, or status,
 2. Time is man's most precious resource. How we choose to use it determines how we live in this life, but more importantly, the status and quality of our eternal life.
 3. Some people use it wisely, and some people squander it away.

How we choose to use time determines how we live in this life, but more importantly, the status and quality of our eternal life.

4. Status; meaning where, and quality; meaning how.
- D. In this world, we often prioritize material possessions above all things, but we should remember that God put the priority on time by creating it first. Therefore, it supersedes all things. It is more valuable than any treasure the world can offer. Think about it:
1. Material wealth can be acquired, lost, or replaced, but time, once it is gone, it is gone forever!
 2. Lost time can never be found again!
 3. You can never replace time, it is irreplaceable.
 4. Every tick of the clock, every second, every minute, every hour, and every day and every year that passes can never be recovered.
 5. There are no second chances with time. You cannot make up time.
 6. Time waits for no one, and no one has time to wait.
 7. Time wasted is life wasted.
 8. Don't waste your time! It is more valuable than money!
- E. This invaluable nature of time is highlighted when the Scripture tells us. ***Psalm 90:12: (ESV) "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."***
1. We are urged to be mindful of the time we have in this life and to use it wisely.
- F. Time is also more valuable than life itself because once your time is up, your life is over. All of our days are numbered.
1. ***Job 14:5 (NIV84) — 5 Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.***
 2. ***Ec 3:2 (NKJV) — 2 A time to be born, And a time to die;***
 3. ***Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV): And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,***
- G. *Ps 39:4–6 (NIV84) — 4 "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 6 Man is a mere phantom as he goes to*

and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.

II. **Choice is invaluable and priceless!** God gave man freedom of choice, and no one can take it away.

Ge 2:16–17 (ESV) — 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “*You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*”

- A. God told man what to do, and then He let him make his own decision. He did not stop him but allowed him to choose death even though he did not want him to do it.
 - 1. God did not violate this freedom he gave, even though it would mean pain and suffering for man.
 - a. Even Satan cannot violate your freedom of choice.
 - 2. Choice is a powerful thing! Our choices can overrule the will of God for our lives.
 - 3. The freedom of choice is a powerful thing!
- B. God gave man the freedom of choice and then allowed him time to make his choice.

God gives each of us *freedom of choice* and then allows us *time* to act on our choices.

- C. The concept of taking life seriously and making wise choices is a recurrent theme all throughout the Scriptures. From the beginning of the Bible to its conclusion, the importance of choices and their eternal consequences is highlighted in a few verses below:

Dt 30:19 (NKJV) — 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Jos 24:15 (NKJV) — 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

 - 1. Our choices matter, not only for ourselves but will affect generations to come.
- D. Adam and Eve chose to be disobedient and eat from the tree that was forbidden for them to eat from. As a result, they, as well as us, were cast out from the presence of God.
 - 1. Obedience will always mean gain.
 - 2. Disobedience will always mean loss.
- E. Man could have chosen to be obedient and live in abundance, or he could

have chosen to be disobedient and suffer and die.

1. Freedom of choice has been granted to all of us.
 - a. You will live because of your choices.
 - b. You will die because of your choices.
- F. God gave another choice for man to have abundant life like Adam and Eve did when he sent Jesus.

Jn 3:16–18 (NKJV) — 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is **condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1. This is a choice. One can choose to believe and one can choose not to believe.
 2. Whosoever chooses to believe can have eternal life
 3. Whosoever chooses not to believe remains condemned.
- G. The Bible clearly teaches that life is choice-driven, and that we live or die by the choices we make.

Life is choice-driven. You live or die by the choices you make.

- H. We must emphasize the importance of choosing wisely in our daily lives by seeking God’s guidance and recognizing that the choices we make ultimately determine the status and quality of our eternal life.
- I. All life is choice-driven and

III. Each day, God gives us time to make choices.

We exchange a day of our lives for each day God has given us to make choices.

- A. Each day we live, we exchange a day of our short lives for it.
1. With each day, God gives us time as an opportunity to make choices to enhance our lives by storing treasures for eternity or losing the opportunity for blessings and treasures.
 2. When a day has ended, the opportunity for blessing that day is lost forever; that time has passed, and we are one day closer to our day of passing away.
 - a. Don’t forget now, we have a time that we have to meet with death.
 3. If we have squandered our time, if we have let it pass without taking the value of our time seriously, we will never have another opportunity to make it up.
 4. **I am glad to see so many of you in church today because this opportunity to come to church only exist today. If you miss this opportunity, you have missed a blessing.**

Lost Time can never be found again!

- B. Every day is valuable because we exchange a day of our lives for it!
Psalm 90:12: (ESV) “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”
- C. What may seem like common and routine moments are valuable moments that can mean great rewards if taken advantage of.
1. Each day, God has given us great freedom to do as we please.
 2. We can choose to follow him, or we can choose not to follow him.
- D. Paul said:
1 Co 6:12 (NIV84) — 12 “Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial.
1. We can do whatever we desire to do with our lives. Everything is permissible, but not all things are beneficial.
 2. Every day you live, you have a choice to do permissible things and beneficial things for the kingdom of God. What will you choose to do?
 3. Don't you think we ought to focus on doing the beneficial things?
 4. Everything is permissible for us as children of God, but everything is not beneficial.
- E. Jesus said,
Mt 6:33 (NKJV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
1. Are we doing that?
 2. Every day and every moment, God gives us an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of Him so we might glorify Him and show our love for Him.
 - a. We should realize that only what we do for Him matters!
- F. The time we spend doing things of the flesh is wasted time. Jesus has also said
Jn 6:63 (NKJV) — 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
1. How many of us have let our days pass and they have no value and mean nothing?
 - a. They are just wasted days.
- G. My mother said just a few hours before her death, “***The time will come when it is too late to do anything different than what has been done, and that is just too bad and so sad. We should take life seriously***”
1. If we just invest our time in acquiring knowledge, honing skills, and pursuing our passions for things in the world, we run the risk of missing eternal blessings that could have been ours.
 2. If we invest our time in the study of the word to acquire knowledge of God and develop the skills to serve others, we unlock our divine potential and live a life where God adds to our enjoyment in life and

- a rich eternity.
- H. Let us remember, our lives are a fleeting mist, a handbreadth in the grand scheme of eternity. This life is brief, and with the passing of each day, we die a little and exchange a part of our life for it.
- I. **At the end of each day, can we say it was worth it? What did we get in exchange for the day?**
1. **With the passing of each day, a day of our life passes away.**
- J. One of the greatest challenges we face in this life is actually recognizing that every moment is an opportunity for good choice. We must learn to choose wisely, not just in major life decisions but even in small, everyday choices.
- Eph 5:15–16 (ESV) — 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.***
1. Moment by moment, each day, you make choices that determine how you will live not only in this life but also in eternity.
- K. But we are cautioned.
- Pr 16:25 (NKJV) — 25 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.***
1. We must not rely upon our own thoughts to make our choices because, without the guidance of God, we will always choose death.
- L. How do we make wise choices each day
- Pr 3:5–6 (NKJV) — 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.***
1. This verse emphasizes the importance of seeking God’s guidance in our decisions. It reminds us that wise choices are grounded in trust and dependence on God, who ultimately, in the final analysis, determines the course of our lives.
- M. Why must we make wise choices? Because...

IV. There are consequences for how we choose to use our time.

- A. How we choose to spend the time we have on this earth will have eternal consequences
- Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV): And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,**
- B. Adam and Eve made a choice that meant suffering for the rest of their lives and, ultimately, their deaths.
- C. We, too, make choices each day that will have earthly and eternal consequences. They lead to either life or death.
1. We should, therefore, choose to follow the narrow road to life. There are a few who find it, but more people will use their freedom

- of choice and choose to go the broad road to destruction.
- D. The last book of the Bible tells us:
Re 20:11–15 (NKJV) — 11 Then I saw a *great white throne* and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*
1. The ultimate consequences of our choices are vividly depicted here. It describes the Great White Throne judgment, where “the dead are judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”
 2. This passage underscores that our choices and actions will be the basis for our eternal fate, either
 - a. in the presence of God or
 - b. separated from Him.
- E. But you may say, I have accepted Jesus as my lord and savior. Therefore, I do not have to face judgment as to what I have done in this life. It was all covered by the blood. Paul, speaking to the Christians at Corinth, said **2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV): 10 For we must all appear before the *judgment seat of Christ*, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**
1. You will be judged, my brother and sister, but not for your sins.
 2. You will be judged according to your good works. Whether the quality was good or bad.
 - a. How did you serve as a member of the kingdom of God?
- F. Your choices also affect the status and quality of your eternal life.

There will be degrees of punishment in hell!

1. There will be degrees of punishment in hell
Mt 11:22–24 (ESV) — 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Lk 12:47–48 (ESV) — 47 And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. 48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

There will be degrees of reward in heaven!

2. There will be degrees of reward in heaven

Mt 5:12 (ESV) — 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Co 3:11–15 (ESV) — 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Re 22:12 (NKJV) — 12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

- G. This is because God is just, and he will judge each person according to the deeds and opportunities they had in life.
- V. As the scriptures declare, “Choose this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15), and again, I say, “Take life seriously!”
- VI. So, in conclusion, I say to you today:
Everyone’s time on earth is limited, and with each passing day, each one makes choices that determine the status and quality of their eternal life, so everyone should take life seriously!

Your time is limited, so take life seriously. It is choice-driven. You will live or die by the choices you make. So, choose wisely how you live each day. Ultimately, your choices will determine the status and quality of your eternal life. Again, I say, your time is limited, so take life seriously!

**The Clock is Ticking,
Choose to Make the Most of Your Time**

- VII. In conclusion, the Bible consistently teaches that life is choice-driven, and we live or die by the choices we make. It emphasizes the importance of choosing wisely in our daily lives, seeking God's guidance, and recognizing that these choices ultimately determine the status and quality of our eternal life.

Ec 12:13–14 (NIV84) — 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

1. **Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV):** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
 2. **James 4:14 (ESV):** “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”
 - 3.
 4. **James 4:14 (ESV):** “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”
 - 5.
- B. Every minute is filled with opportunities and possibilities. It's during these moments that we can make choices to learn, grow, create, build relationships, and make a positive impact on our lives and the lives of others.
1. Valuing time means seizing these opportunities and making choices to make the most of them.