

## “REDEEM THE TIME”

1 Chronicles 12:32; Ephesians 5:15-17

### I. DIRECT YOUR FEET IN WISE, CHRIST-LIKE STEPS

#### A. Watch Your Steps in Wisdom

Circumspectly: “careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences.” 2 Samuel 11. Prov 22:3. Wisdom plays chess; folly the roulette wheel. “What about the next generation? If we do this, what will become of our children?”

“Walking” as here, 4:1, 17, 5:2 = a habitual way of life. Put off/put on dynamic: 4:20-24. The right step makes the next one more stable. Focus on habits, not goals.

#### B. What Did and Would Jesus Do? v. 17

Verse 17: restatement of 5:8-10. But goes a step further: calls for investigation and reflection upon about what the Lord wants. “Lord” in Ephesians always refers to Christ (1:3, 15, 17; 2:21, 3:11), not the Father. The acceptable will of the Lord is found in the life of our Lord, as He brings the law to life. Christ is the pattern, program, playbook. If He would do it, it’s wise. If He wouldn’t do it, it’s foolish.

Jesus is so much more than a moral example: Savior, King, Friend of Sinners (Matt 11:19); Strong Tower (Prov 18:10); Wonderful Counselor (Isa 9:6); Ever Present Help in Times of Trouble (Psalm 46:1); The God Who Sees (Genesis 16:13); Faithful and True Warrior (Rev 19:11). Put your faith in Him today, and be saved from the wrath to come! But also the supreme Master, worthy of complete imitation. “Why ask what would Jesus do, if you don’t know what Jesus *did*”? Calls for a detailed and intimate knowledge of the Gospels. Believer asks, “*What did Jesus experience that’s similar to what I’m going through?*” (Heb 4:15). Augustine: imitation of Christ is the fundamental purpose of Christian life; remedy for imitating the sins of Adam.

Are we saved by works? Absolutely yes! The works of Jesus Christ in His living, dying and rising for us. Not by ours but by His. Grace – which is salvation by Christ’s works -- leads to our works by His grace. 2:8-10

Jerome: “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” How well do you know the Scriptures? The exact details of the life of Jesus? Thomas A Kempis (*The Imitation of Christ*).

*“Without the Way, there is no going,  
Without the Truth, there is no knowing,  
Without the Life, there is no living.”*

### II. BUY UP OPPORTUNITIES IN VIEW OF THE EVIL DAY

#### A. Buy Up Opportunities v. 16a

“Redeem” (used as metaphor, e.g., Gal 3:13). Back to original meaning = purchase. Greek words for time: *chronos*, flow of time; *kairos* the significance of time (opportunity).

Winning strategy of Monopoly. How Paul looks at opportunities for service. Know your *kairos*. Be on the lookout, be the aggressive purchaser. It will cost you -- your time, your convenience, your pleasure, your comfort. But the reward in the end is incredible. What your Master did (John 3,4). Paul also (Acts 16:9). May need recalibration. Nursing homes. Not Acts 24:25. Role of local church in discernment.

#### B. The Days are Evil

Time is short, but motive: because days are evil = godless perspective on life; first law of self-preservation, “What do I think is best for me and mine?” Not retreat but advance. Not social distancing of the wrong sort. Caregivers on the front lines. If not us, who? If not now, when? William Booth.

#### *Conclusion*

As Christ has seized you by His grace, seize the day! Night is coming, when no one can work (John 9:4).