

# REDEEMING THE TIME

Eph. 5:15-16

1. A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND PURPOSE.
  1. What the world needs is hope.
  2. What the church needs is purpose.
  3. One purpose is to redeem the time.
  
2. REDEEMING THE TIME.
  1. Time.
    1. The period between two events or during which something exists, happens, or acts.
    2. A period characterized by a prevailing condition or specific experience.
    3. Same sense of "the time is fulfilled," "my time is not yet come," "ready to be revealed in the last time," "times of the Gentiles," "dispensation of fulness of times," "times and seasons," "perilous times."
  2. Redeem.
    1. To buy back; to get back; to rescue; to deliver from sin and its penalties; to restore to favor by making amends.
    2. Strong's - To rescue from loss.
  
3. WHY ARE WE TO REDEEM THE TIME? THE DAYS ARE EVIL.
  1. Wars, rumors of wars; nation against nation; kingdom against kingdom; famines, earthquakes, pestilences.
  2. Perilous times (II Tim. 3:1-5) *"...in the last days perilous times...lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce,*

*despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness , but denying the power thereof..."*

3. Dishonoring their own bodies between themselves (Ro. 1:24). *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: ...women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly..."*
  
4. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES...KNOW WHAT ISRAEL OUGHT TO DO (I Chr. 12:32).
  1. Knew what was going on; knew what to do about it.
  2. Then what's going on? What about the times? What of the night? What about this darkness? What do you say? *"Watchman, what of the night?"...The morning cometh(!)"*
    1. What about the evil? The grace of God abounds!
    2. What of the gross darkness? Thy light is come!
    3. When there was darkness in Egypt, there was light in Goshen.
    4. You tell me darkness will prevail? Arise, shine--thy light is come!
  3. Don't you know these are serious and sobering times? We don't have anything to be happy about--we should be in mourning.
    1. What pressures? What persecution? You mean somebody doesn't like me?
    2. I think I'll get depressed.
    3. I think I'll sit around and say, "Woe is me!" What problems I have! Things sure are getting terrible. What are me going to do?
  4. Redeem the land! Redeem creation! Redeem the time!

5. GOD HAS CALLED US AS A REDEEMING FORCE
  1. Majority of world's problems are of moral nature; all have spiritual roots--must be dealt with spiritually.
  2. We are to make a difference.
  3. To make a difference, we have to be a difference.
    1. We are to be a contrast.
    2. We are to walk circumspectly (careful to consider all related circumstances before acting, judging, deciding); not as fools.
    3. *"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." (Col. 4:5).*
    4. Walk as the reflection of God.
  4. Those who were a difference.
    1. Laban was blessed because of Jacob.
    2. Unbelieving husband or wife blessed by saved wife or husband.
    3. "For my servant David's sake..."
    4. Paul made a difference on ship to Rome--not one life to be lost--just stay on board. Important who's on board with you.
  
6. THE CHALLENGE IS TO KEEP PRESSING ON.
  1. Everything is before us; nothing behind us.
  2. Behind us may be Egyptians breathing down our necks; in front of us may be the seemingly insurmountable wall of the Red Sea.
    1. But beyond that is the land that flows with milk and honey.
    2. There's no turning back; must continue forward. Can't waver or faint now. Can't go back to old crowd...they've failed.
  3. God will open the Red Sea; stand still and know that I am God.

1. Is there anything too hard for God?
  2. I am God, and I change not!
  3. I am the Lord who has brought you into a large place!
  4. I have borne you on eagle's wings!
4. Behind us is a desolate wilderness.
    1. There's nothing behind us but desolation and bondage; sickness, death, pain, disappointments, disillusionments, confusion, ineptness, weakness, unproductivity, failures.
    2. Where would we go? Jesus is the only one who has life.
  5. Before us is the garden of Eden!
    1. Life! Liberty! Beauty! Fruitfulness! Deliverance! Fulness of joy, fulness of love, fulness of peace. No more unfulfilled dreams or disappointments.
    2. Keeping our eyes on the prize.
7. FIND SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO ZION AND GO WITH THEM.
    1. Quit fooling around with those who are going round and round the bottom of the mountain. It's time to begin to ascend. Go to the top of the mountain.
      1. Arise from the place where you are! Take up your bed and walk! Be healed! Be made whole!
      2. Why sit you here until you die? If God be God, let's follow Him.
    2. Dead religion or a form of godliness won't get it any longer.
      1. Find that which is life; pursue life. Embrace it.
      2. We're no longer bound to the beggarly elements of this world. Jesus has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

3. If you remain where you are, you will die!
  4. Take the limitations off God.
    1. God will make a way where there seems to be no way.
    2. Take back what belongs to you! Redeem the land--redeem the time!
    3. Claim your inheritance!
    4. Refuse to bow to the pressures of the enemy!
  5. It's not to the weak or the faint-hearted. The weak and faint-hearted went back a long time ago! It's to the strong.
    1. They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.
    2. Let the weak declare that they are strong!
8. LET GOD ARISE AND LET HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED!
1. God has come to manifest his power and His glory!
  2. Take back what belongs to God; take back what belongs to you!
    1. Our children don't belong to the devil!
    2. Our kids don't have to be destroyed; we don't have to sacrifice them to the god of lust, drugs, and perversion!
  3. Take back our cities! Our cities don't belong to the kingdom of darkness! Our streets don't belong to the drug dealers! Murderers! Rapists!
  4. Take back our nation! This is a nation that was built upon "In God we trust." This is a nation that was founded upon the Word of God.
  5. That our sons may be as plants grown up...that our daughters may be as corner stones...that our garners may be full. that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets..that our oxen may be strong to labour...that there be no breaking in, nor going out...that thee be no complaining in our streets! Happy is the people

whose God is the Lord!

9. HOW WE ARE TO REDEEM THE TIME.
  1. The church has been called to be a mighty force.
    1. Our churches weren't called to be a weak example of the Body of Christ in the earth. We are a holy nation; a peculiar people; a chosen generation--to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light!
    2. We have been called a city that sits upon a hill; the light of the world; the salt of the earth. It is through the church that we are to declare to the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God.
  2. Be an example to the world.
    1. How can we influence the world and redeem the time, when we are no different from the world?
    2. Given to the same fears, anxieties, frustrations, weaknesses, failures. Fearful of tomorrow.
    3. Be not conformed; but be transformed--by renewing of mind.
      1. We need a new way of thinking.
      2. Putting on the mind of Christ--thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
  3. By manifesting the power and glory of God.
    1. We are sons of God, to whom the whole creation of God is looking, groaning, and travailing to see a manifestation of God's glory.
    2. The world is tired of talk--it's time to become--time to be.
    3. There's a generation who is saying, "Show me; show me the way. Show me that there's hope; that I can make it--that I

can overcome. Show me that faith works. Show me that prayer works. Show me that the power of God is real. Don't tell me. Show me!

4. By bringing a spirit of revival and restitution.
  1. Through prayer and intercession.
  2. Through repentance.
5. By making God the LORD. Happy is such a people.