

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 3 Issue 53



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

A NEW YEARS CHALLENGE: Using Our Time Wisely Sermon by Rick Toburen December 31, 2017

In today's message, Pastor Rick reminded us of the importance of using our time wisely. He used the fact that we are in the brink of a new year to challenge us to consider how we use time. The main passage was Luke 12:16-21 known as the parable of The Rich Fool. Rick drew three important lessons from the narrative.

First, he pointed out "the brevity of time." The Rich Fool said "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." (v. 19) There is a reason for the saying "time flies." Scripture teaches clearly that time is fleeting. Psalm 90:10 says that we may live 70 or 80 years. Rick broke this all the way down to the number of seconds. There is nothing that we can do to slow it down, or obtain more.

Rick then went on to show that The Rich Fool failed to understand "the purpose of time." In Luke 12:18, he surveys all that he has done and says: "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods." This man was very selfish in his use of time. By contrast, Scripture says that we are to make the most of our time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). That statement begs the question, how do we make the most of our time? Rick used a quote from Billy Graham to put things into perspective:

"Time is the capital that God has given us to invest. People are the stocks in which we are to invest our time, whether they are blue chips, penny stocks or junk bonds."

Rick's final point was the Rich Fool failed to understand "the accountability of time." In verse 20 of the passage, God calls the man a fool and brings his life to end. In a disconcerting passage in Daniel 5, there is a similar pronouncement against King Belshazzar. Daniel interprets the writing on the wall to say "God has numbered the days of your kingdom and it to an end." Both the Rich Fool and King Belshazzar chose to use their time unwisely and in the end they paid a terrible price. We will all be held accountable to how we use our time.

The turn of the calendar to a new year is the perfect time to look at how we are using our time.

E-CHECK: Exercising Our God Given Gifts (Time)

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Luke 12:16-21. Review the 3 failures of the Rich Fool (above). As you study the passage and the surrounding text, what additional insights do you see?

Look up the following cross-references: Psalm 90, Daniel 5, 1 Chronicles 29:15 and Job 7:16. Note what the Bible says about our lives. Take the time to do your own study on what The Bible says about time.

Read Matthew 22:36-40 and Matthew 28:19-20. According to Jesus, how should we prioritize our time and our calendars?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

1. Have I made similar failures in my use of time?
2. What is at least one thing that I can begin adding to my schedule to help me with my failure?
3. Is there a way I can become more active in caring for others?
4. Is there a small group that I can become involved with?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Are you involved in a small group? If not, is it possible that you may not be using your time well? Connecting in relationship with other believers on a regular basis is an important part of our Christian walk. Take the time to review your calendar and open up time to be with other believers.

KEY POINT:

Does my calendar reflect a wise use of time? Am I redeeming it well? Do I understand it's brevity, it's purpose and that I'll be held accountable for how I use my God given time?

RESOURCES:

One Year New Testament Bible (available at the information table)
"The Purpose Driven Life" Rick Warren
The Book of Daniel, check out Daniel's great example of using time wisely.