

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY TIME? Answering Life's Toughest Question

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Part 3 of 7
Eccl. 6:12

"...Who can say how one's days can best be spent?" Eccl. 6:12 (LB)

FIVE KEYS

1. ACCEPT THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN BOTH THE GOOD AND BAD TIMES OF LIFE.

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven."
Eccl. 3:1

God doesn't do anything by accident.
Solomon gives us 28 times of life in contrast.

Positive

Eccl. 3:1-8

Negative

Be born
Plant
Heal
Build
Laugh
Dance
Gather
stones
Embrace
Search
Keep
Mend
Speak
Love
Peace

Die
Uproot
Kill
Tear Down
Weep
Mourn
Scatter
Refrain
Give up
Throw away
Tear
Be silent
Hate
War

"Everything is appropriate in its time." Eccl. 3:11 (LB)

2. AFFIRM MY FAITH IN GOD IN CONFUSING TIMES.

When you ask the question and God doesn't answer – Trust God.

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“Though God has planted eternity in the hearts of men, even so man cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.” Eccl. 3:11b (LB)

We see the painful process; God sees the finished product.

We see the ugly cocoon; God sees the transformed butterfly.

“You don’t realize now what I’m doing, but later on you will understand.” John 13:7

“This happened so that we might learn to trust, no in ourselves, but in God.” 2 Cor. 1:9

If you don’t accept and affirm your trust in God in these times of confusion you will tend to resist, resent, reject, and react to all that God’s doing and feel He’s doing things to hurt you.

3. APPLY THE PRESENT TIME TO DOING GOOD.

“There is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live.” Eccl. 3:12

“God created us for a life of good works which He’s already prepared for us to do.” Eph. 2:10 (GN)

Life is preparation for eternity.

“Whenever you possibly can do good to those who need it.” Prov. 3:27

Do your giving while you’re living, then you’re knowing where it’s going.

4. APPRECIATE ALL MY TIME AS A GIFT FROM GOD.

“All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we’ve worked for. It is God’s gift.” Eccl. 3:13 (GN)

God wants you to enjoy your life not just endure it.

“However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all.” Eccl. 11:8

Live each moment with an attitude of gratitude. Every morning, your Heavenly Father deposits 86,400 seconds into a daily time account.

You get to choose how you use it.

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If you don't use it, you lose it.

"I've learned, in whatever state I'm in, to be content." Phil 2:11

The secret of happiness is the ability to accept life as it comes to you, not always be longing for something else.

Contentment is something you learn. It doesn't come naturally.

5. ANTICIPATE GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF MY TIME TO GOD.

"God will call the past to account ... God will be the judge of the good and the bad; because a time for every purpose and for every work has been fixed by Him." Eccl 3:15, 17

Why is God going to judge me in the way I use my time? Because my time is my life.

If time is the most precious commodity, then wasting time must be one of the biggest sins. If you waste time, you're wasting your life.

"Each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:13

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as ones who don't know the meaning of life, but as those who do. Make the best use of your time." Eph. 5:15-16

FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What can I learn from this moment?
- What good can I do in this moment?
- What can I enjoy in this moment?
- How can I trust God in this moment?

"If you wait for perfect conditions you'll never do it." Eccl. 11:4 (LB)