Ephesians

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Preacher: Dawson, Herbert (1890-1969)

[0:00] As the Lord should be pleased to help me, I shall call your attention to a subject you will find in the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Chapter 5 and the 16th verse. Redeeming the time because the days are evil.

Chapter 5, 16th verse. The Epistle to the Ephesians. What the Apostle Paul is writing about to the godly Ephesians as the Spirit of God indicted what it was to write.

Is for them not to waste time. And these godly Ephesians had their names on church rolls. But this word which is indeed a good word to contemplate.

Especially as you step forth into a new year. And at any other time too. Is a word that will be well for you dear young people as I address you primarily.

[1:34] To seek the help of God to do. Because. If you began to reckon up.

All the time. That you have wasted. You and I. In looking back over our lives. Time that has passed by.

And nothing has been done. Worthwhile. Nothing has been said. That did anybody any good. And therefore that time is wasted.

And the word of God is very solemn. The thought of foolishness is sin. For every idle word that men shall speak.

They shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. And by him actions are weighed. And you know dear young friends.

[2:36] And older friends too. Preacher and people alike. Must all plead guilty here. Along life's way. You and I have wasted.

Quite a deal of time. And now we have got to give an account of it. And we shall need the help of God to deal with us.

Regarding it. And he will show us mercy. If we are helped to keep in mind. If we confess our sins.

He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And now I want as the Lord shall help me.

To say something that will be helpful. To you. On this. Line of things. And there is one thing.

[3:37] I need not take up much time. In setting it forth. Because you do not need any preacher to tell you. Redeeming the time.

Because the days are evil. And now the apostle Paul. As he penned this epistle to the Ephesians. In his day. Oh he declares the days are evil.

What do you think the apostle Paul would say nowadays. If he could be on the earth. And was inspired of God to pen an epistle. And you and I could be helped to read it.

Regarding the days in which you and I are living. Oh they are evil days. And they are called in the word of God.

Last days. The apostle Paul. Penned an epistle to Timothy. And he said. Know thou that in the last days.

[4:42] Perilous times should come. And dear young people. They have come. You and I are living in those times. The word of God declares.

And no preacher. Though he may indeed be sent of God. Can tell you in adequate words. How perilous the times are in which you are living.

Our land in which you and I are living. Is like the crater of a volcano.

And any day there may be an eruption. And the evil in the land. From Land's End to John O'Groats. Come to a climax. And the eruption take place.

And you and I. Will be involved in it. But do remember. I hope that you and I. Will also find. Mercy in such a perilous time.

[5:46] They that in the Lord confide. And shelter in his wounded sight. To see all dangers. All the past. And every storm. And live at last.

Oh I do earnestly hope. God will regard you dear young people. In much mercy. And preserve you. From the ills and evils.

Of the perilous times. In which you are living. And that you will be helped. He alone can help you. Oh that he may be pleased to do so.

And that he will help you. To feel. God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble. Therefore will not.

We fear. And now. Looking first of all. I want to say a little about this redeeming the time. Time. Time. Time.

[6:44] Time. Time is a wonderful subject. But I might tell you dear young people. It is a very difficult subject to preach from.

You think about time. Ponder it in your own hearts. Suppose you were asked. You grammar school.

Scholars. Scholars. And lesser scholars too. If you were asked to write an essay on time. How would you begin? How would you answer the question.

What is time? You would find it very difficult. You might be glad to borrow. Some of the writer's language.

When he said. Time is but a bubble floating. On eternity's vast sea. Time. A bubble. You look at it. You see it's pretty colors.

[7:45] For a second. And it bursts. Such is time. I think of a sundial. Which had this motto.

Time flies. Time tries. Time dies. Yes. Time is a very difficult subject.

To preach about. But I can tell you what is harder still. Time. Is a much more difficult subject. To seek to reduce.

To practice. According to what. The apostle Paul tells us. Redeeming the time. So that the passing moments.

Minutes. Hours. Whatever the time may be. Has got something recorded in it. Which will abide. Either in time.

[8:41] To benefit you and others. Or better still. To abide for time. And eternity too. Redeeming the time. Time flies.

You know how it flies. But then it tries. Sometimes you see things. And they look well. As a picture.

As it were. And you wonder. How matters will go. But time. Time. Tries these things. That you were looking on.

And sometimes. It proves them to be. Not what you thought. At first they were. And then. This is a. Great truth.

I nearly said. And I will. A terrible truth. Time dies. The present moments. The present moments. Just appear. Then fly away in haste.

[9:44] That we can never say. They're here. But only say. They're past. They're past. I sometimes.

Think. Think. Think. Of a godly. Preacher of the gospel. Who was pastor. At one of our courses. In Wiltshire. And.

He was walking. Along a road. Which I have walked along. Quite a few times. In bygone years. Going on his way. To preach. At another little course.

And there was. A maiden. A teenage. Girl. Walking with him. Who was. Pondering in her heart.

The things of God. And. As they were journeying on together. The godly minister. Paused and said. Shall I tell you.

[10:39] What I've been thinking. And. The answer was. Do tell me please. And now. In a hundred years time.

You and I. Will be in eternity. Where shall we be. Shall we be in heaven. Or alas. Shall we be in hell. And now.

That girl. Never forgot that. It was a nail. Fastened in a sure place. And I saw. That girl.

When she had grown up. And was old and grey headed. On her dying bed. And she told me. That incident. And.

As she was dying. She said. I am on the rock. I am on the rock. Feelingly soul. Oh.

[11:33] That is a dying testimony. I hope you dear young people. May know. Something about. In your own soul's experience. On Christ. The solid rock.

I stand. All. Other ground. Is sinking sand. And I was impressed. In reading. Some time ago.

That another godly minister. One much owned. And blessed of God. In his day. Mr. William Tiptoft. He was out. For a walk. In autumn time.

And the leaves. Were falling. All around. And it suddenly. Came to his mind. That. When he had gone.

The way of all the earth. As many years. As the falling leaves. Told. That were falling. All around him. When they had passed by.

[12:31] It would only be. The eternity. Had as it were. Just begun. And now.

Redeeming the time. I'll take this word time. And give you a word. For each letter in it. Whereby.

You might be helped. To remember. Some viewpoints. Of time. And the importance. Of recognizing. The good counsel.

The apostle Paul. Has given. Redeeming the time. The margin is. Buying up the opportunity. In other words.

As ye have. Opportunity. Do good unto all men. And especially they. That be of the household. Of faith. Transient. And now.

[13:29] The letter T. Stands for. Transient. And that means. Passing.

And it is very striking. In the word of God. The illustrations. Which are used. To set forth. The brevity. Of our lives. How short.

They really are. Comparatively. With the eternity. We are hastening. To enter into. And you find.

That the Selmy. speaks of. The Selmy. It speaks of. Life. Like this. As a passing. Show. And now sometimes.

You dear young people. You have seen. Some event. To take place. You have felt. You have felt. You should like to witness it. You have made arrangements. To do so. You have looked forward.

[14:26] To it. As long as it was lawful. And right. That was quite. As it should be. But. The day has dawned. And you have gone. You have seen.

What you went to see. But. It all passed. Before your eyes. And the next day. There was nothing. Whatever to show. For it. What you did see.

Though it was a reality. When you saw it. Was only. Transient. It was just. A passing show. And now you find.

The Holy Spirit. Uses these illustrations. To set forth. Time. We all do fade. As a leaf. And now you have seen.

The beautiful. Colored leaves. Of autumn time. Beautifying the landscape. But when you see them. Again. Remember. We all do fade.

[15:26] As. A leaf. Our life is like that. For a while. You see the bud. It bursts forth. Into a leaf. And it is a picture.

In its greenness. And strength. But it fades. And it dies. And it drops off. Yes. Then it is spoken of also.

As a flower. Fading. And the psalmist. As this illustration. We spend our years. As a tale.

That is told. And now you see. Life is like that. It is a good illustration. And you dear.

Young people. Do think about it. A tale. That is told. That is your life. My life. And you know.

[16:23] A tale is made up. Of chapters. And now. You can begin. With the chapter. Of childhood. And then. You can think. Of the chapter.

Of school days. And that is about. As far as some of you. Young people. Have got yet. But then. There is the. Chapter also.

Of manhood. Womanhood. Your teenage life. As you grow up. And go forth. Into life. And then. There are further chapters. To follow.

But. There comes the. Concluding chapter. May be when old age. Has come. And it. Could be.

Before then. But you know. You put. F-I-N-I-S. At the end. Of a book. And that is the end. Of it. The tale is told.

[17:17] You have read it. There is no more. Aye. But. With regard. To this tale. That is told. That the psalmist refers to. There is some more.

Every one of us. Must give an account. Unto God. Regarding the life. That we have lived. How we have filled up. The chapters. In life's.

Pages. We must give an account. Of it. Unto God. Whether our concern. Has been. To live. After the flesh. The things of the flesh.

Or. To live. As I hope it will be. With all of you. After the spirit. The things of the spirit. Then. Our life. Is compared. To a hand bread.

And also. A dream. And again. It is. Compared. To being. A shepherd's tent. Which is.

[18:14] Just put up. For the time being. That the shepherd. Needs to be where he is. Then it is. Taken down. It is not. Permanent. As a habitation. No. Then.

Our life. Is. Likened. To grass. Growing. And withering. And sometimes. It is referred to. As just a shadow. And Hezekiah.

He speaks. About a weaver. Shuttle. And the thread. Cut off. By the weaver. When the pattern. Of our life. Has been.

Woven. On the weaver. Shuttle. It will be. Cut off. God. And it will be. Seen. Before God. What the pattern. Really. Has been.

Whether you have lived. For this world. Or the next. Whether you have. Sought in your life. To do as you like. And live as you list. Or whether your concern.

[19:13] Has been. To live unto God. And redeem the time. And consider time. As given to you. To prepare. To enter into.

Eternity. And you know. The hymn writer says. Prepare me. Gracious God. To stand before thy face. Thy spirit. Must the work perform.

For it is all of grace. And now Job says. That his life. Was a pilgrim age. And life is like that. We are pilgrims. To Cain and found.

We hope. Some of us. Are you? Then he says. His life. Is like to the swift. Ships. And James speaks about.

Our life. As being but. A vapor. And it vanisheth away. You know. There is no stability. Whatever in vapor. The wind blows.

[20:10] And it is gone. Such is our life. And now. All these illustrations. Are to remind us. That it becomes us.

To seek to redeem. The time. Because time is. Transcient. And what is more. It is not for you. To do as you like in it.

And the apostle Paul. Makes that claim. To the church at Corinth. Where he says. You are not your own. For you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God.

In your body. And in your spirit. Which are God's. That is redeeming the time. Aright. T for transient.

God's. God. God. And now. I. Stands for. Important. Time is important. God makes use of it.

[21:13] God ordained. That time should be born. And you read. In the word of God. In the beginning. God created. The heavens.

And the earth. God. God. And how important. That was. It was then. That time. Really. Began. But.

I want to show you. How important. Time is. From another. Viewpoint. And now. I will read you. An illustration of it.

In the gospel of Luke. Do listen. Now. In the fifteenth year. Of the reign of Tiberius Caesar.

Pontius Pilate. Being governor of Judea. And Herod being Tetrarch of Galilee. And his brother Philip Tetrarch of I.

[22:09] To Rhea. And of the region of Trachonitis. And Lysanias the Tetrarch of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas.

Being the high priests. The word of God came unto John. The son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And now you see.

How God regards. Time. In its importance. So that. All the higher critics. In modernity. To the present day.

They cannot overturn that fact. That when. All these people. Were living as God. Ordained they should live. And where they.

Were living their. Lives. Though they were not living. To his honouring glory. Alas. Yet. They are historical facts. That cannot be erased.

[23:05] And it was then. The word of God. Came unto John. The son of Zacharias. In the wilderness. There are all those.

Guarantees. To emphasize. That time. Is. Important. There is also. Another reference. That will show you.

How important. Time is. In the book of. Exodus. Listen. Now. The sojourning. Of the children. Of Israel.

Who dwelt. In Egypt. Was. Four hundred. And thirty. Years. And it came. To pass. At the end. Of the four hundred. And thirty.

Years. Even. The self. Same day. It came. To pass. That all. The hosts. Of the Lord. Went out. From the land. Of Egypt.

[24:01] It is a night. To be much. Observed. Unto the Lord. For bringing them out. From the land. Of Egypt. Listen. This is. That night.

Of the Lord. To be observed. Of all. The children. Of Israel. In their generations. And now. The spirit. Of God. Has given.

That graphic. Description. And it. Cannot be. Undone. Or overturned. Whoever may. Criticize it. Receipt. To pull it. To pieces. God said.

That. Israel. Should be. In Egypt. Four hundred. And thirty. Years. But on the. Self. Same day. The time. Was up. Out they came.

Time. Is important. Yes. And then. There is another time. I just. Call your attention. To. It is one of my. Favorite.

[24:55] Subjects. But. When the fullness. Of the time. Was come. God sent forth. His son.

Made of a woman. Made under the law. To redeem them. That were under the law. That we might receive. The adoption. Of.

Sons. God ordained. That there should be a day. When Jesus Christ. Should be born. As barely man. Born a babe.

By birth. Mysterious. And for four thousand years. Patriarchs. Selmists. Prophets. Waited long. Look forward.

To that time. When the Messiah. Should dwell on the earth. And they. Died. Without seeing it. And the.

[25:51] Last one. Malachi says. And here you see. Time is important. Unto you. Therefore. Which fear my name. Shall the son of righteousness.

Arise. With healing. In his wings. And you all know. There is a set time. For the son to arise. And so there was. A set time. When Christ Jesus.

Would come into the world. To save. Sinners. Dear young people. How important. That time was. It could not fail.

To come to pass. God had so ordained it. Time is important. And then there is. This viewpoint of it. And you know.

I do wish you well. It is time to seek the Lord. Have you begun to do that? I do believe.

[26:47] Quite a few of you. Do know what it is. To seek the Lord. Are there any of you. Who are here. Under Union Chapel rule.

Who as yet. Have not. Begun to seek the Lord. And now I just tell you. Time is important. You may not be here tomorrow.

To do it. It is time. To seek. The Lord. And you read in the. Hebrews.

And it is. Beautiful reading. Now. Now. Is the accepted time. Now. Is the day. Of salvation. And what do you read.

In. Isaiah. Oh what a good word. That is. But do mark one word here. Come. Now. Come.

[27:43] Now. Now. And let us reason together. Said the Lord. Though your sins. Be as scarlet. They shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson.

They shall be as wool. But here. It is the emphasis. On time. And it's importance. Come. Not tomorrow. You say. Well.

I'm only young. I may live to be old. And grey headed. Time enough yet. To think about it. You may not have time enough. Yet. To think about it.

And the word of the Lord. Is come now. Yes. Oh. Remember to what I read to you. Remember now.

Thy creator. In the days of thy youth. Now you are young. When I was a lad at school.

[28:40] A long time ago. We sometimes used to sing. In morning school. Grant me. Oh Lord. Thy early grace. Nor let my soul.

Complain. That the young morning. Of my days. Has all been spent. In vain. Oh. Time. Is. Important.

And now. We come to the letter M. And now that stands for measured. Time is measured. I shall find it difficult to.

Give you the proper explanation of it. Because I told you. It was a very difficult. Subject to try to preach from. But I must try. As the Lord shall help me.

Time is measured like this. If you look in the book of Genesis. You will see one chapter. Where.

[29:42] Those of whom it tells. From Adam onwards. They lived lives that were ever so long. But then it says this.

Of one who lived the longest. All the days of Methuselah. Were nine hundred sixty and nine years. And he died.

Time was measured to him. Though he had all those birthdays. Maybe he forgot so many of them. But. Time for him was measured.

So it is for all the others. It says of each one. After telling how long they lived. And he died. It seems quite a melancholy chapter.

As it were. Speaking with great reverence. To read it down. But. There is one. Of whom.

[30:44] Wonderful to tell. It is not said that he died. And he not. Walked with God. After he begat Methuselah. Three hundred years.

And begat sons and daughters. And all the days of Enoch. Time was measured for him. Were three hundred sixty and five years.

And Enoch walked with God. And he was not. For God took him. What a wonderful. Fulfillment of time that was.

For godly Enoch. His time was measured by God. And then all at once. He was in eternity. Forever with the Lord.

Yes. And now. Many years ago. There was a tombstone in Charin Churchyard.

[31:43] And. It is over a hundred and something years ago. Of what I am telling you. Happened. William Huntington.

William Huntington was alive then. One of the godly ministers. Of that far back day. Of whom you have heard preachers. Refer to. And he was in the neighborhood of Charin.

Then. And he. Saw in the churchyard. A tombstone. And it had this. Verse on it. Where I am now. You soon must be.

Prepare for death. And follow me. William Huntington. William Huntington. William Huntington. Did not. feel he could agree with.

Whoever it was. Whose mortal remains. Were underneath. And. He wrote these words. On the tombstone. This is recorded. I think in his life.

[32:40] To follow you. Is that your cry. And not to know the reason. Why. To follow you. I'm not content. Unless I know.

Which way you went. And now that. Is all important. And now. You look at our cemeteries. You see hundreds and thousands of stones.

Tombstones. So you do in the churchyards. You can go around ours. And there are stones. That have been erected. From at least the 14th century onward.

Though you cannot read. What they have got to tell. But there. The dead have been buried. All those. Years. Until the present time. And when you walk in the churchyard.

You might say. What mean ye by these stones? And now. If you search out the meaning. You will want to be like the psalmist.

[33:43] And he says. In Psalm. 39. Lord make me to know. The measure. Of my days.

How frail I am. The margin reading is. What time. I have. Here. The measure. And now.

If God should make you. To know that. You think how you would be living. If an angel. Could reveal to you.

That during. 1967. You would step out of time. Into eternity. Would you waste any time? I am sure.

You would look into the word of God. As you have never looked into it before. And you would be often. Seeking to draw near to God. That you might be fitted.

[34:38] Not only to live. But. To die. Because you would realize. Your time is. Measured. Because an angel. Made the.

Fact. Known to you. But then it is measured. And now. When you come. Right down to it. How shall we measure time?

I believe. The best description. You can ever have of it. Is what one in writer says. Only this frail.

And fleeting breath. Preserves me from the jaws of death. Soon as it fails. It once I am gone. And plunged into a world.

Unknown. Time is measured. By a breath. And the apostle Paul speaks of it. As a moment.

[35:37] And in that moment. He means however long you have lived your life. It may be 60, 70, 80, 90 years. But he says. It is but a moment.

Compared. With what is beyond time. When time shall be no more. Forever. And ever. And now.

This will help you to understand it. I said. Time is measured. Think of. What is recorded.

Which you have no doubt. Read. Many times. But I will. Read it to you. Again. Because. There is much instruction.

In it. And he spake a parable unto them. Saying. The ground of a certain rich man. Brought forth plentifully. And he thought within himself.

[36:34] Saying. What shall I do. Because I have no room. Where to bestow my fruits. And he said. This will I do. I will pull down my barns.

And build greater. And there will I bestow. All my fruits. And my goods. And I will say to my soul. Soul. Thou hast much goods laid up.

For many years. Take thine ease. Eat. Drink. And be merry. But God said unto him. Thou fool. This night.

Time is measured for you. This night. Thy soul shall be required of thee. Then who shall those things be. Which thou hast provided.

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself. And is not rich. Toward. God. God. And now in our village life.

[37:33] Last Sunday evening. One of our villagers died suddenly. A man. Who. Is really a loss to the village.

Because he was a moral. Upright. Man. And he could be respected. For what he was. But.

He said to his wife. Sometime after his tea time. Not very long. I do not feel. Very well.

I think I will go to bed. And as he went into his bedroom. He looked at the clock. And he. Did not think it was telling the time aright.

And he. Said to his wife. In another room. Called to her. What is the time. And she told him. And.

[38:32] He was seeking to put the clock on. But time for that man. Was measured. It was his time to die. And so. He dropped down in the bedroom.

Where he was. And died. There is an illustration. Of what I am trying. To get you dear young people.

To ponder. In your hearts. And now we come to the letter E. And that stands.

For eternity. You could say. But it is. Not needful to say it. You could say. That eternity.

Is an endless time. Time. That ever passes on. And never comes to an end. Endless.

[39:28] But. The word eternity. Sets it forth. But whatever. Can a preacher say. In trying to describe. Eternity.

One godly hymn writer. A German. Put it like this. To help. People to understand. A little about it. Came there a bird.

Each thousandth year. A sand grain. From the hills. To bear. When all had vanished. Grain by grain. Eternity. Would still.

Remain. Mark well. O man. Eternity. And you know a verse. The pastor often quotes. As long as God.

Shall God remain. So long shall last. Hell's lingering pain. So long the joys of heaven. Shall be. O long delights.

[40:29] Long. Misery. Eternity. And now. In the book of Revelation. Which has got much.

Wonderful truth in it. That. No one seems. Nowadays to have. Yet. Special light. Regarding it.

But. It is. Very striking. That we are. That we are. Nearing to. The times. Referred to. When some of these things.

Described in figurative. Language. Will be taking place. Before our eyes. If we should live. And now. Here is a very striking. Expression.

About time. And the angel. Which I saw. Stand upon the sea. Upon the sea. And upon the earth.

[41:24] Lifted up his hand. To heaven. And swear by him. That liveth forever and ever. Who created heaven. And the things that therein are.

And the earth. And the things that therein are. And the sea. And the things which are therein. Listen. That there should be time.

No longer. And now that time. Is awfully important. The margin reading is. No more delight. Which means.

That the time is come. When the judgments of God. Will be poured out. Upon a guilty world. In an awful fullness. And what a mercy it will be.

If at such a time. You and I. Are found. Safely sheltered. In the rock of ages. And regarding eternity.

[42:26] What you and I. Will first of all. Know about eternity. Is set forth in a picture. Which I have read to you before. But I want to read it to you again.

And I saw. A great white throne. And him that sat on it. From whose face. The heaven and the earth. Fled away.

And there was found. No place for them. Do listen. And I saw the dead. Small. And great. Young and old.

Stand before God. And the books were opened. And another book was opened. Which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things.

Which were written. In the books. According to their words. And now what I want you to remember. Is this.

[43:22] As you go on your way home. You and I will be there. In that vast assembly. To stand before God. As he is on that great white throne.

And you see. As you are to be judged. Out of those things. Which are written in the books. According to the works. That you have done.

Surely you do see. How important it is. For you to redeem the time. Because the days are evil. Not to be living.

For this world. Only. And just satisfying. Your carnal mind. With whatever earthly pleasures. You can find. As you think.

To do so. But remember. These days. In which you and I are living. Are evil. Beyond words to describe. There are drugs.

[44:21] And dope. In the devil's own brew. Which. Is. All to ensnare. You dear young people.

If so be the devil. People. Can turn you against God. And godliness. But those who love you. Oh they pray for you.

That God in his infinite mercy. Will teach you. Lead you into his truth. The truth of what you are by nature.

As a sinner. And that you might. Be led into the truth of who Jesus Christ is. As the sinner's friend. And find in him.

Your God. Your Lord. To serve him. As you live out. Life's little day. And.

[45:20] There is a word here. With which I will conclude. And now. In a book I have.

It says that a traveler. In France. Saw these words. Put up as a notice. In a French village. Understand well these words.

Do you listen to them? A God. A moment. An eternity. A God. Who sees thee.

A moment. Which flies. From thee. An eternity. Which awaits thee. A God. Whom ye serve so ill.

A moment. Of which. You so little profit. An eternity. Which ye hazard. So. Rashly.

[46:21] Oh how essential it is. To seek divine aid. To redeem the time. And now. Go back to when. As I said earlier on. I was a lad at school.

We used to sing. A hymn. Like this. Redeem thy misspent. Moments. Past. And live each day.

As if. Thy lust. Thy talents. To improve. Take care. For thee. Great day. Thy self. Prepare. Direct control.

Suggest. This day. All I design. Or do. Or say. That all my powers. With all their might. In thy soul glory.

May unite. If God should help you. To pray that prayer. And out of the abundance. Of the heart. The mouth should speak. You will be concerned.

[47:17] Every day. To enter into this word. Redeeming the time. Because the days. Are evil. Amen.