

## SIX METHODS FOR REDEEMING THE TIME

■ *a practical study of Ephesians 5:16 by Dr. John DeBrine* ■



The picture above is that of the Churchill Tabernacle which at one time was the largest evangelical church in western New York. The church owned a 50,000 watt radio station (WKBW). They broadcasted their morning and evening services and the "Back Home Hour" from 10-11 PM, and it was from that address where I first heard the Gospel. The leading preachers and evangelists used to preach from its pulpit, but it is now boarded up. What was then the largest pipe organ in the area is now a pile of wood and warped keys. This is a picture of waste and a reminder that we too may have a great beginning but a very poor ending. (This was a fear of Paul as stated in I Corinthians 9:27). Because Jesus Christ is alive, we can know resurrection power and we can make our life count. Redeeming the time is possible. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Romans 5:10) and "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places." (Eph. 1:19,20).

This is a study to call us to know the

practical methods of "redeeming the time".

### I. GIVE BIBLICALLY

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the house hold of faith." (Galatians 6:10). We might wonder at first

why giving relates to redeeming the time. Actually Jesus Himself dealt with that when He taught that our giving reflects our thinking. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It is very difficult to reconcile our giving to God and our occupation with the material when the material is way out of line with our giving to God. There is nothing wrong with a Christian driving a Cadillac – if his giving is in the Cadillac framework. We certainly aren't redeeming the time if God gets only a tip. Study II Corinthians 8:7 for the development of this idea and note that Christian giving is called a "grace". I find nothing in the New Testament that tells believers to tithe. A believer has a much much higher standard; in fact, Philippians 4:18 reviews the standard:

1. Giving is to be a sacrifice.
2. Giving is to be given against the backdrop of the Omniscience of God

God knows what we can give.

### II. LIVE LIFE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." (I Peter 1:17). Buy an inexpensive hand-held tape recorder and everytime someone sows discord (Proverbs 6:19), turn on the tape recorder and ask them to repeat it for accuracy. Silence will prevail! Now we must also realize that God knows every thought and every motive. Redeem the time!

### III. DON'T RETIRE YOUR GIFTS

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24). Talents are given at birth but spiritual gifts are given at the moment of salvation. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

(I Corinthians 12:7,11). Since these gifts are totally from God, then only God has the right to retire a gift He has given. Our way of life is to redeem the time by the full use of our spiritual gifts as I Peter 4:10 teaches.. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same" Continued on Next Page  
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## 6 METHODS FOR REDEEMING THE TIME CONT.

*manifold grace of God."*

### IV. BE OBEDIENT TO DIVINE VIEWPOINT

*"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."* (John 9:4). Philip Melancton, the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformer, kept a record of every wasted moment. Every night he took his list to God in confession. God used him because he learned to *redeem the time!*

### V. FIGHT ONLY GOOD FIGHTS

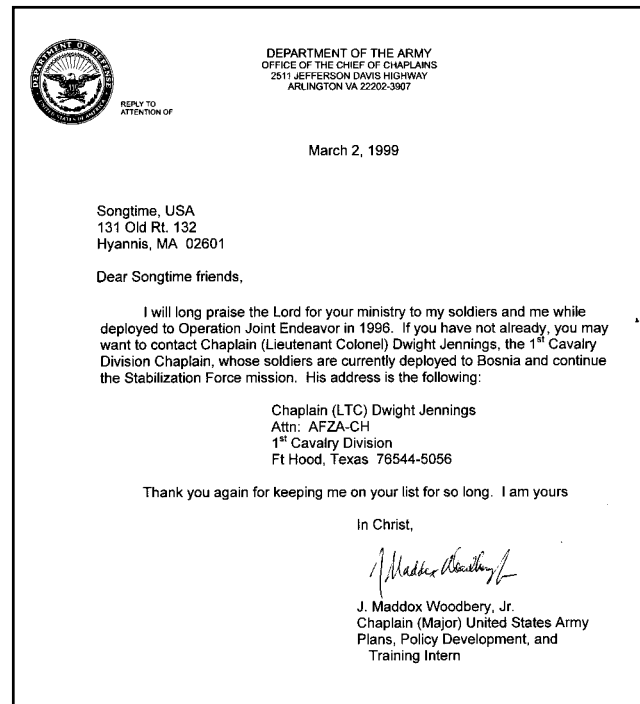
*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* (II Timothy 4:7). A prominent Bible teacher recently called Billy Graham to ask for forgiveness. At 92 years of age this man realized that his ministry was largely given to attacking Billy Graham. Such a ministry flunked the II Timothy 4:7 standard. Most of the disunity in the church has no eternal value. We are much like the man whose house was on fire. Instead of being concerned to save his life, he wasted time adjusting the pictures on the wall! What a waste! Check your activity according to II Timothy 4:7. Are you *redeeming the time?*

### VI. BE AWARE OF BREVITY

*"Lord make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity."* (Psalm 39:4,5). *"Go to now, ye that say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.'"* (James 4:13,14). Try to imagine your life 100 years from now. If you have personally applied Acts 16:31 you'll be with the Lord. But what about your life while on the Great Planet earth? Did you invest it or waste it? What did you do last week, for example, that has eternal value?

Meet Pastor Kefa Sempangi from Uganda. One day he visited the home of

a family. He discovered their young son in a state of shock because he had been forced to witness the murder and dismembering of everyone else in his family. While persecution is common in that part of the world, the church remains stronger than ever. You don't have to tell them to "redeem the time". They know what has eternal value. Let me share a letter from the office of Chaplains:



One goal of Songtime USA is to make the cassette, Decision Determines Destiny available to service personnel all over the world. Pray, give and help us "*Redeem the time because the days are evil.*" (Be sure to ask for a copy of this cassette – give it to an unbeliever and let us know the name of that person so we can pray along with you.)

## Songtime on the Road

- Sunday, April 18** - **Hornbine Baptist Church** 141 Hornbine Road Rehoboth, MA for 10:00 AM service.
- Saturday, April 24** - **Oneida Corners Community Church** in Queensbury, NY. "*The Roy Rogers Story*" with **Bill Dagle** at 7:00 PM.
- Sunday, April 25** - **Hope Baptist Church** Route 134 in Dennis, MA for 10:00 AM service. (located downstairs in the Senior Center)
- May 6-9** - "**Springtime in Vermont**" Songtime bus tour. Still have a couple of seats on the bus if you would like to join us! Staying at the Trapp Family Lodge, Golden Eagle Resort & The Inn of the Six Mountains in Stowe, VT.
- May 8-9** - **Valley Christian Church** in Conway, NH for Saturday meeting at 7:00 PM and Sunday service at 10:00 AM
- Friday, June 25** - **35<sup>TH</sup> SONGTIME ANNIVERSARY BANQUET** at Lantana's Restaurant in Randolph, MA with **John Starnes in Concert and Jimmy DeYoung speaking**. Come and join other Songtime listeners as we celebrate 35 years of Songtime's daily broadcasts and Dr. John DeBrine's 50 years of radio ministry. Tickets are available only through Songtime at \$25 per person.

## Fully Prepared to Face Death

Pastor Steve Butts - MILLERSVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

In my fifteen years of pastoral ministry, I have presided over many funerals. I have conducted funerals for the young and old; for those whom I knew and those unknown to me. Some died naturally, others violently. These funerals have allowed me to observe the depths of human grief. When the curtain is drawn for a final goodbye, family members often turn to me for words of hope. "Is he at peace with God?", "Will we see her again in heaven?" These are the questions people want me to answer. Feelings of hopelessness overwhelm us when confronted with the horrible reality of death.

When Jesus died, his disciples had similar feelings. Beyond their sadness at los-

ing a dear friend and beloved teacher, their hope for a better world died on that cross with Jesus. After his death two of his disciples said, "We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21). Mixed with their grief was a profound and crippling sense of despair. Another emotion commonly experienced at the death of a loved one also afflicted them: *guilt*. They abandoned Jesus when he needed them most. He was arrested and they fled in fear for their lives. At funerals, it is not uncommon for people to experience a broad range of traumatic emotions. "If only" and "I should have" statements express the sense of regret and helplessness people feel.

Of course, death is an inevitable part of the human story. We all must face the painful sting of death. Scripture refers to death as "the last enemy to be destroyed" (I Corinthians 15:26). I long for the day described by the apostle, "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory'" (I Corinthians 15:54).

On Easter we celebrate life! Stop and reflect on the event that brought the Christian church into existence: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The reappearance of the living Christ brought hope from despair for the early disciples. He had risen just as he had told them. In one of his appearances Jesus said, "I am the living one; I was dead and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death..." (Revelation 1:18). We need the words of hope which he spoke to grieving friends at the funeral of their beloved brother. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25). Put your trust completely in him and you will be fully prepared to face death.

### A "HYMNSTORY"

■ Bill Dagle ■

The center piece of Christianity is certainly the cross of Calvary for it was on that cruel rugged cross He died for you and me. I had the opportunity to visit Calvary – the place of the skull – in Jerusalem. Even though we aren't sure that he was crucified on the exact site I visited, one thing that remains sure is that He was nailed to a cross to die for me and in His death and resurrection I have the promise of a heavenly home.

William Newell did not understand the meaning of the cross when his father sent him off to attend Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Torrey was leery of young Newell's attendance at the school because of William's rebellious ways. As he put it, he was running a Bible school not a reform school and as president, he had to deny the first request. The pastor/father didn't give up and pleaded for help until Dr. Torrey gave in – with the stipulation that William was to see him each day and that he would make every effort to abide by the rules and requirements of the Institute. Years later, Dr. Torrey would say this, "The son came and at first it almost seemed hopeless. Never had I met someone with so many problems – particularly in the spiritual realm. He did however abide by the rules as he had promised. As I look back, I feel that this was his first step to recovery." With each passing day, Torrey answered all of William's questions with the Bible until one day (after months of counseling and praying) the true meaning of the cross came to the confused young man. From that time on he became an exemplary student and eventually became a Bible teacher himself at the Moody Bible Institute.

It was through this experience that William Newell learned the importance of God's Word and the wonderful truth of salvation by grace – that his place had been taken at Calvary by God's only begotten Son. Many miss altogether the true meaning of Calvary and like our confused student they need a guiding hand. Maybe this Easter you can be that guide to help a loved one or friend find the Saviour of Calvary and like Newell wrote so many years ago, they too will say –

*Years I spent in vanity and pride – Caring not my Lord was crucified,*

*Knowing not it was for me, He died — on Calvary.*

*Mercy there was great and grace was free – Pardon there was multiplied to me.*

*There my burdened soul found liberty — on Calvary.*

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# ■ Questions & Answers ■

Dr. Bob Burrelli - GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

**Q:** Is there such a thing as unanswered prayer?

**A:** No. For those who know God and have accepted his son, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior there is never a time where God does not answer our prayers. We have an advocate and mediator between God and man - Christ Jesus. However, God may choose to answer our prayers with any of three responses: **1) Yes, 2) Wait, or 3) No**

**Q:** Is there ever an instance when God does not hear our prayers?

**A:** Yes. There are seven instances where God does not hear our prayers.

**1) Prayers that ignore His will**

1 John 5:14 - "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us."

**2) Prayers that are not given in the authority of Jesus**

John 14:13-14 - "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my (Jesus) name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."

**3) Prayers that are given in unbelief**

Mark 11:22-24 - "...what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

A good example from scripture where belief was the basis for prayer is seen in the life of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as they stood before king Nebuchadnezzar and the fiery furnace in Daniel 3:16-18 - "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are

thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

**4) Prayers that are self-centered**

James 4:3 - "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

**5) Prayers of a resentful person**

Mark 11:25 - "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

**6) Prayers of a hypocrite**

Matthew 6:5-6 - "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. That your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

**7) Prayers of a disobedient believer**

Psalms 66:18 - "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Proverbs 28:9 - "If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable."

Isaiah 59:1-2 - "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that He will not hear."

## PLAN ON JOINING US....

As we travel to **Branson, Missouri** October 21-27 – visiting many of the music shows, the Passion Play and Precious Moments Chapel. Cost includes airfare, admissions per itinerary, hotel, 6 breakfasts & dinners. Flights originate in Boston & Philadelphia. Cost is \$1,199 per person (double occupancy) or \$1399 for a single. Call 508-362-7070 for a registration & itinerary. \$300 deposit is **due no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Deposit of \$300 is **due by June 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Songtime tour to **Oberammergau, Germany** immediately if you're planning to join us on June 4-15,2000.

## We Love to Get Letters!

"Either you are doing much better in your programming or else I'm more conscious of the scope of the messages! Such good speakers. The two Davids who closely cover Prophecy Today do such a good job. A big thank you for giving me your program over WACE – it's a lovely way to start my morning."  
-RI listener

"Thank you so much for 'filling my cup' each day. I love the great variety of your speakers, the great music but especially the rich, spiritual food." *He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed* (Pr.11:25)  
-CT listener



## Tours and Events...

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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