

Dealing with the Pressure of Time

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5.
- B. Our time is important because our time is our life.
- C. People fall into two categories—those who spend their time wisely and those who spend it foolishly.

II. Those that walk wisely walk with eternity in their minds.

- A. Living in time causes us to forget that we are people of eternity. (Job 7:6, 9:25, Psalm 39:5)
- B. The believer is to be careful—no matter how time is spent, life is being invested.

III. Principles.

- A. God has given us adequate time to do His will.
- B. If a person does not plan his life, someone else will.
- C. Our time is a gift from God to be used for Him.
- D. We have a problem with time management, but this is really self-management.
 - 1. This is about priorities.
 - 2. We need to settle certain priorities as followers of Christ.
 - 3. Jesus had time for prayer and fellowship with only three years of ministry to change the world. (Luke 6, 9:18)
- E. God has provided time for fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Time alone with the Father is central every day.
 - 2. This will make one's ministry effective.
- F. The danger of not setting priorities.
 - 1. Every person will give an account to God for time spent. (Romans 14, I Corinthians 3, II Corinthians 5)
 - 2. Where a person spends eternity is based on one brief second—the decision to follow Christ.

Application questions:

1. What can we learn about time management from the life of Jesus?

2. What are some things in your life that are peripheral to the cause of Christ that could be given up for greater fruitfulness? Explain.

3. How can you increase your consistency with daily prayer in a way that is both practical and measurable? Explain.
