

Breaking Point

“The one who breaks open will come up before them” - Micah 2:13*

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Time Well Spent

Rev. Brian A. Crane

Does the word “time” conjure up images for you? Do memories of family, fun and frolic come to mind or instead work and the grind that is has become? You may be thinking you need more time or perhaps a vacation would be nice. As you know, time is a limited resource. We all have 24 hours to utilize and spend. Recently as I was going through a personal reflective self-evaluation, a passage found in **Eph 5:16-17** came to mind which states, “redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” As I began to meditate and study further, I saw that “redeem” used here is literally to *buy up and rescue from loss*. The Amplified Version says it more clear, “Making the very most of the

time [*buying up each opportunity*], because the days are evil.” The metaphor is of merchants and traders being able to discern and improve the seasons for merchandise and trade,

(Matthew Henry).



Out of time

As these words sunk in, I began to think of the parable of the talents and the king that went away for awhile entrusting three servants with all his goods (**Matt 25:14-30**). Upon his return, an account was required of them. While two increased their talents [money], over time, receiving reward, the third did nothing

and was disciplined. If we link the two Scriptures together we can understand that *time can be compared to a resource such as money*. Imagine a dollar representing a person’s entire life then breaking it up into 100 pennies. We could say that each penny is one year; therefore, how you invest your years will determine your return. So how does this passage apply to us in relation to today’s American culture? Well, where and how are you investing your time? Here are some facts for one area that Americans do now in regards to time/talent spent. According to TV-Free America, in a 65-year life, a person will have spent 9 years glued to the tube. The number of minutes spent with children by parents in meaningful conversation each

Continued ...

Plowin' the Field

When a farmer prepares a field they contend with ground that may be hard or rocky. To prevent a loss of harvest from an ill prepared soil, the farmer uses a plow to break up the ground. In the spiritual realm our hearts may be hard ground and unrepentant sin is the primary contributor. This condition does not allow seed that is sown to take root and produce fruit. In the parable of the sower, Jesus shows us “The one who received the

seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away” (**Matt 13:20-21**).

We should not be deceived by a doctrine that states the Holy Spirit only comes as a Comforter. Although Jesus did proclaim the Holy Spirit as such, He also taught that He

would come to “convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment” (**Jn 16:8**). Like a farmer who sees the condition of the soil, the Holy Spirit uses the Word as a plow to break up the ground and convict of sin.

Excerpt from the book *Secrets Of The Heart, 2nd edition* by **Bill Rudy**.

Time continued



“In a 65-year life, a person will have spent 9 years glued to the tube.”

Breaking Point
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“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

2 Tim 2:4



week is a whopping 3.5 minutes compared to 1,680 minutes a child spends in front of TV. Millions of Americans are so hooked on television that they fit the criteria for substance abuse as defined in the official psychiatric manual which lists five dependency symptoms ([Check stats here](#)). I could go on but you get the point. G.K. Chesterton said, “Whatever else may be said of man, this one thing is clear; He is not what he is capable of being.” One reason I would

surmise this to be true is because we are wasteful with our time.. Since we are redeemed ourselves by Jesus, our perspective in how we expend time should change from a temporal view to an eternal one. We must give every occasion to God and “buy up each opportunity” as He directs us.

The direction we take is important. We are instructed “*not to be unwise*” and to “*understand*” God’s will (v. 17). Unwise means *mindless* and *stupid* while

understand is defined as *knowing with understanding*. It is the strategy of a matter according to the will of the Lord. **Proverbs 14:8** says, “*The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, But the folly of fools is deceit.*” I believe we should not deceive ourselves thinking there is always tomorrow. The way we invest now will determine our time later; temporal and eternal. I could say more but I am...well, out of time.

PB

Strong Families

In our family we have what is called “Family Night” and many of you have already implemented this as well. It is a great way to build strong families and relationships. If you are desiring to start a fun night or family hobby, Candice Watters from Focus on the Family gives some great pointers to

ensure it will last. Here are five tips for a *family hobby*:

1. Age appropriate. Can everyone participate?
2. Scalable. Novice to advanced. Is there room to grow?
3. Repeatable. Can it be done regularly?

4. Affordable. Can it be kept within your means?
5. Make it fun and challenging.

Whatever you decide, enjoy the time spent with family as it is an investment well worth the return.

Military Minute

Can God be in your workplace? Absolutely! Let me explain. In the 80's as a Navy Recruiter it was my custom to go to the church and pray, then go to the office. For 18 months I was the top recruiter in OK and TX. One January, after putting seven people in the Navy in a week, I became slack and stopped going to Morning Prayer. Soon, I stopped telling people that it

was the LORD who was blessing me. For the next several months, I recruited no one. Several months passed and one day an Admiral came into the office and asked me what I was doing different in regards to my recruiting. Knowing what to say (although not wanting to admit it), I simply said, “I have left God at home and now I am doing things on my own.” He re-

sponded by ordering me to take the rest of the day off and upon my return to bring God back and my prayers too! God does belong in the workplace. Let Him show you how to share His word where you labor.

Robert Sandlin, USN (Ret CPO) served faithfully for 20 years. He desires to see God move among service-members.

Hard Questions



Is Jesus both God and Man at the same time?

While we cannot understand it, the Bible clearly asks us to believe it. Scripture declares that Jesus, the Messiah, is both truly God and truly man. Jesus Himself clearly declared His preexistence and

deity in **John 8:58**. In **Mark 2:1-12**, Jesus proclaimed His authority to forgive sin, and in **Matthew 25:31-46**, Jesus declared that He will judge the world. His enemies understood these claims since they called Him a blasphemer (**Mark 2:7**). When His enemies required Jesus to state whether or not He was the Christ, He replied, “Yes, it is as you say, . . .” (**Matthew 26:64**). While numerous passages throughout the New Testament refer to the deity of Christ, many also refer to His humanity. For example, in the first chapter of his Gospel, the apostle John declares both the deity of Christ and His

humanity. Through His Son, God entered into the suffering of His creatures. He even experienced their temptations (**Hebrews 4:15**). While recognizing the paradoxical nature of the claim we cannot deny the truth of this event without rejecting the plain meaning of Scripture. One of the strongest statements in Scripture about the incarnation is found in **1 John 4:2-3**. I would encourage you to read it and test yourself.

This months Hard Question was adapted from RBC Ministries, www.rbc.org.

Do you have a question?

Email: rockurchinfo@earthlink.net.

Subject: “Hard Questions” for consideration

For the Men

What is the difficult area of your life when it comes to your work or family? One attribute I believe we can all agree on is patience. The capacity for calmly enduring difficult situations is something I need to work on. While not every situation appears difficult, we have to remember to look at it from three perspectives: mental, physical and spiritual. They can all be exercised independently or in

tandem depending on the circumstance. For example, having a three year old daughter nagging about her taco and where she would like to eat it can be mentally exasperating and spiritually trying. I have found that patience tests and strengthens areas that we did not even think we had. Much like working out muscles in the gym to look “cut” so too, patience hews us to be able to walk worthy of God’s

calling in every area of His body. It also give us opportunity for reflection as we rest in the knowledge that God has our best interest at heart. We all have heard of the patience of Job, yet I wonder if I were to go through what Job did, how I would handle it. His patience was shown by how he **reacted** and **acted** towards God, his friends, and surviving family (his wife). **Luke 21:19**, “*By your patience, possess your souls.*”

“Patience hews on us to be able to walk worthy of God’s calling in every area of His body.”

For the Women

It’s pouring rain outside and you have a long way to walk to the church doors. A volunteer starts to head to your car with an industrial size umbrella. What do you do? Some people thank the kind stranger but decide to make a run for it. They only come up soaking wet and cold. Some choose to use their small, broken umbrella that can’t stand against the

wind. They struggle all the way to the front door and end up no better off than the person that made a run for it. Others accept the help, but seem uncomfortable receiving assistance. They don’t say a word to the volunteer all the way to the door. Finally, there are those that gladly accept the offer and converse with the volunteer all the way, smiling and thankful.

Which are you when someone offers you help with anything? I have come up soaking wet a few times. Ladies, don’t let your pride or the fear of “putting someone out” get in the way of your blessing or theirs.



Need help?

AC



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Mission:

Operate by Faith, Run with Hope, Perform in Love

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Around Town

MARCH

6th: Youth Quake Live,

13-14th: Financial Foundations Seminar. Rock Church. (904) 225-4940 for information

21st: Ultimate Comedy Theatre, Kenn Kington w/ Justin Fennell.

APRIL

5th: *Hello Love Tour*. Chris Tomlin

18th: Rock Church Family Picnic

Humor

Q. In what part of the Bible is baseball mentioned?

A. In the big-inning (Genesis)

First Principles

Self Bible Study

"...you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God." **Hebrews 5:12**

Repentance and Faith (Pt I)

Repentance from dead works and faith towards God are two of the foundational truths mentioned in **Hebrews 6:1,2**. Repentance is the first step while faith towards God is the essence of the entire Christian's walk. Essentially, we have broken God's law and we are commanded to repent (**Acts 17:30**). Many individuals have the idea that being "good" deserves heaven. Yet the reality is that *"there is none righteous, no, not one"* (**Rom 3:10**). Have you ever lied, stolen or looked upon another

to lust? If so, you have transgressed (broken a law). It is imperative to understand it is not just the act of sinning but the intent to sin also.

Jesus said, *"But I say to you that*

whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (**Matt 5:28**).

Simply put, God looks at the heart. Many think Jesus raised the standard by this statement. He actually revealed where

Maturity starts in His Word.

it was all along, as it had never moved. What is repentance? It means to *"think differently"* or *"reconsider"*. There is an implication

of conscious moral separation and a personal decision to forsake sin and enter fellowship with God.

For further self study:

1. What is the importance of repentance as found in **Acts 17:30, Mark 1:15, Acts 11:18, II Timothy 2:25** and **II Peter 3:9**?
2. What does repentance call for in **Isaiah 53:6, Judges 10:15-16, Acts 26:19-20** and **I Thes 1:8-9**?
3. Read **Romans 3:10-26** and define "Justification."

* All Scripture references are NKJV

