



## **THE BOYS' BRIGADE, NIGERIA**

**AN ONLINE SEMINAR HELD ON 28TH APRIL, 2020 AT THE WHATSAPP PAGE OF *BB INFORMATION PLATFORM™***

**THEME: REDEEMING THE TIME FOR THE DAYS ARE EVIL  
– *EPHESIANS 5:15 - 17***

### **INTRODUCTION**

The phrase 'redeeming the time' can also be translated as, 'buying up the time' or "Making good use of the time". To redeem the time is to make the most out of the limited time that we have. The fact is this: one of the things men have in common is time. However, there is a limited supply of it. Therefore, we ought to manage our time and opportunities wisely.

Paul tells the Ephesians in verse 15 that they need to be wise concerning their ways (activities), and then in verse 16, he tells them that they need to be wise concerning their days (time).

In the simplest way possible and for the purpose of this study, the organization and this present time, let's consider this practical examples:

I would have been more involved in Church and The Boys' Brigade activities but, I just don't have enough time. I would have gone for this or that training, acquire more knowledge and be more useful to these Boys but, I don't have enough time. I would have accepted the leadership position given to me by the Church but, I don't have enough time. I would have \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank space with any of those excuses) but, I just don't have the time. How often have you heard those words or perhaps have said them yourself.

Today, men and women are overbooked, overscheduled, and overcommitted. Not having enough time; that precious commodity that has been allotted to each of us to use to do His will here on earth.

Hear this; God has entrusted us with 24 hours each day for us to use as wise stewards. So, we must use it wisely.

## **HOW IMPORTANT IS TIME?**

Time is so important that the Bible commands us to “redeem the time” in two different scriptures: “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” (Eph. 5:16). “*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time*” (Col. 4:5).

## **WHAT IS TIME?**

Let me define time in two ways...

### **A. It is A Divine Gift**

Someone has rightly said, “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why it is called the present!” Time is a gift among many other things. Each day that we live is a gift because, no one is promised tomorrow.

Understanding that God is the giver of life, and that the length of our days are in His hands, we realize that time is a gift from God and should be used wisely because, we will all give account on how we lived or used the gift of life that was divinely given to us.

### **B. It is A Daily Grant**

With the gift of time comes responsibility. Each day has been given to us by God as a grant or trust. Time is something we are entrusted with. As the receivers of time, we are stewards of God’s gift. This grant (time) has been given to you to be used productively...

See *Matthew 25: 14 – 30*. This is the Parable of the Talents. The Master gave his servants charge of his goods while he was away on a trip (Responsibility of handling his goods and time to be productive).

Upon his return, everyone gave account of what was given to them. He expected them to be productive but one wasn’t. At the end, he gave excuses. On the last day, we will also give account of how we used our talents and how we handled the Boys that were kept under our care.

From the above definitions, we can only ask ourselves this important and challenging question: *as stewards of the Most High God, what have we done with the time that God has given us?*

## **WHY SHOULD WE REDEEM THE TIME?**

1. Ephesians 5:16 “redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

2. 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
3. Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
4. Isaiah 55:6 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near:”
5. Galatians 6:9 – 10 “<sup>9</sup>And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith.”
6. James 4:13 – 14 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
7. Matthew 5:14 – 16 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **HOW DO WE REDEEM THE TIME?**

1. Ephesians 5:14 “Therefore, He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”
2. Ephesians 5:17 “Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
3. Be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
4. By fellowshiping and worshipping with other believers. Ephesians 5:19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
5. Hebrews 10:24 - 25 <sup>24</sup>And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

If you must successfully REDEEM THE TIME, these are the two things you must deal with:

1. Excuses
2. Procrastination

**Excuses:** are unjustifiable reasons for doing or not doing something. They come in different forms. For example;

*Genesis 3:12 – 13* The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” – *No one is taking responsibility for their actions; all of them are busy pushing blames.*

*Proverbs 22:13* The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside, I will be killed in the streets!” – *This one is offering excuse for negligence of duty.*

*Judges 6:15* He said to Him “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.” – *Making excuse not to take responsibility.*

*Exodus 4:10* Then Moses said to the LORD, “Please Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently or in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” – *Making excuse not to take responsibility.*

*Luke 14:17 – 18* “When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come the banquet is ready.’ But they all began to give excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’”

May we not be found making flimsy excuses in Jesus name, Amen!

**Procrastination:** is the act of delaying or postponing what is to be done for another time. Let’s read these two scriptures; a positive confession and a charge from the Bible:

**Confession:** *John 9:4* “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: night is coming, when no one can work.”

**Charge:** *Proverbs 6:4* “Don’t put it off; do it now! Don’t rest until you do.” *Redeeming the time should be our goal; every second, minute, hour, day, week, month & year under the sun for as long as we have the gift of life.*

## **CONCLUSION**

You need to find the right balance. On one hand, you need to spend enough time in building yourself up, and in preparing yourself sufficiently to live independently and responsibly in this world; positively affecting your generation especially The Boys' Brigade Ministry to which you belong. At the end of it all, you must find the right balance between service to God and self-development. To achieve this, Time Management is of great importance... You cannot do it on your own. Therefore, allow the Holy Spirit to take charge in totality.

May God help us to successfully redeem the time in Jesus name, Amen!

## **QUESTIONS OF THE DAY**

1. What do you understand by Redeeming the Time?
2. As a Boy or Officer of The Boys' Brigade, can you boldly say you are redeeming the time?
3. What do you know are the reasons you have not been able to redeem the time?
4. Have you seen solutions to the challenges you are facing from this Bible Study?
5. Have you taken decisions on how to tackle those challenges militating against your redeeming the time?

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