

Ten Steps to Redeeming the Time in Your Life



*Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's
the future, but today is a gift...
that's why it's called the Present!*

Your Christian life is a journey, not simply a destination!

Choose to make each moment count. You are not guaranteed tomorrow. The only day you have to make a difference is today! Each day is the beginning of a new day. God has given you this day to use as you see fit. You can waste it or grow in its light and be of service to others. But, what you do with this day is important because you have exchanged a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever. I pray you will not regret the price you paid for it. Redeem the time!

To redeem the time, choose to ...

- 1. Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior*** (John 1:12, John 3:16)
- 2. Do not doubt your salvation, but on the authority of God's Word, claim this gift of God as your eternal possession*** (John 6:37, John 10:27-29, 1 John 5:13). Have you received Christ as your Savior? Then what are you? You are His child! Do not be guided by your feelings, for feelings can change. Place your confidence and trust in God's Word, for it never changes. Thus, you can be assured of your salvation.
- 3. Surrender yourself wholeheartedly to God, yielding each area of your life to His control.*** (Romans 12:1-2, Romans 6:13, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- 4. Determine to meet with the Lord regularly, preferably first thing in the morning, for a time of prayer and Bible reading*** (Psalm 5:3, Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 2:15, Proverbs 8:17). If you neglect prayer and study of the bible, you will not be able to redeem wasted opportunities and make the most of your precious time. The more time you spend with God alone in quiet solitude, the better you will be able to hear His voice guiding and directing you.
- 5. Confess known sin to the Lord immediately*** (1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 2:1). A true definition of sin is "anything that is not pleasing to God." You cannot begin to redeem the time and make it count for eternity if you have not

settled the sin issue in your life. Sin causes regrets, and only God can erase your regrets. Any part of your day not surrendered to God is a day lived in sin. It is wasted!

- 6. Praise Him** (Psalm 147:1, Psalm 92:1, Psalm 96:4a). Focus on who God is! If you do nothing else, or you think you do not have time for anything else, praise Him. Read the Psalms to Him. Sing praise songs to Him. He does not care if you are on key or not. He cares about the attitude of your heart.
- 7. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude** (1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 118:1). Gratitude is understanding that even though your life today may carry some of yesterday's problems, you choose to focus on God's grace. Gratitude is acknowledging that He is the one who brings us joy! That is what redeeming the time is all about!
- 8. Determine to be obedient** (1 Kings 3:14, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 7:23). God makes it clear that obedience to Him brings blessing. He is under no obligation to bless what we choose to do on our own. Obedience is a choice. He will not command you to do something that He will not enable you to do. We have to believe that the God that created us knows what is best for us, even if we do not know "why" we are to obey. Obeying God and faith go hand in hand. If I obey God, I must trust Him; and if I really trust Him, I am going to obey Him.
- 9. Be alert for the many opportunities God gives you to tell others what Christ has done for you** (1 Peter 3:15, Romans 1:16:17). Redeeming the time means that our lives are to so conform to the will of God that people can actually look at us and see the reflected glory of God in our face and in our actions. Your life may be the only Bible some people will ever read. Can others see Jesus in your every day life?
- 10. Focus on Him** (Joshua 24:15, 1 Timothy 4:15, Matthew 6:33). Re-examine your priorities. The key to living like Christ is not found in striving, but in letting go of our dreams and goals and seeking the Lord above all else.

Prayer:

O Lord, wash me clean with the blood of Jesus Christ. I desire to redeem the time. I desire to buy back the opportunities that I have missed. Lord, change me. Keep me alert to Your leading. Place a guard around my mind so that only Your thoughts penetrate. You have given me this one day. May I live it to glorify You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Edwina Patterson

*If you have never received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, would you choose to begin the process of redeeming the time by praying a prayer similar to this one:

"Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner and that I fall short of Your perfect will every day. I do believe that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for my sins. Thank you for forgiving my sins. I trust You to be my Lord and Savior. Teach me how to allow You to run my life completely and daily redeem the time. In Jesus' name, Amen."

