

If Only I Had More Time—A Theology of Time for Busy Leaders

For the typical leader, there never seems to be enough time. E-mails, conversations, planning, meetings with people—your day fills up quickly and is over much too soon. The lack of time often produces stress, frustration, and limits your effectiveness. Most literature for leaders focuses on the management of time, but are there deeper principles that could make time your friend rather than an enemy? Could a theology of time give you firmer moorings and free you from the tyranny of the urgent? This workshop will start you on that journey.

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Intro

Time is your most precious resource

- There is a limited amount— you can't save it
- You can't speed it up or slow it down
- You can't borrow it
- It keeps coming at you, whether you use it or not
- You can get more energy, money, resources, help, etc - but the amount of time you have is fixed

Your view of time develops as you grow

1. As a child – how to kill time
2. As a young person – how to use time
3. As an adult – how manage time
4. As a leader – how to fight with time

Time can easily become an adversary and a thief

What is God's view of time? - Five principles

1. Time is good – Gen 1
2. Time makes things beautiful – Ecc 3:1-13

3. God has “right times” for you – John 7:1-9, 30

John 11:5-40

Jesus was never frustrated by time.

4. Time brings you good works that God has prepared for you – Eph 2:10

5. You need to be wise and redeem the opportunities – Eph 5:15-17

How does God work within time? - Five principles

Genesis 1

1. Work from the big to the small – Gen 1:1-23
2. Create order by separation – Gen 1:1-10
3. Maximize your rhythms for rest and renewal
 - a. Daily – evening and morning - Gen 1:5, 8, 13
 - b. Weekly – Sabbath – Gen 2:2-3
 - c. Yearly – Feasts – Lev 23
 - d. Multi- yearly – Sabbatical and Year of Jubilee – Lev 25:1-22
4. Invest in living things that multiply – Gen 1:20-25
5. Be flexible without losing form. Be ready to adapt without abandoning.

Mark 2:23-28

Mark 6:30-45

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 5:15-17