
Sermon Title: "TIME KEEPS ON TICKING... Life, New Year's, and What's Truly Important"
Theme: Using our time wisely to glorify God through Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

- Begin by reflecting on the New Year as a time of renewal and reevaluation.
- Quote Psalm 90:12: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
- State the ABCD structure of the message: Assume responsibility, Believe God will help, Clarify what's important, and Don't wait to begin.
- Mention the brevity of life and how each moment is an opportunity to glorify God.

Historical Context:

- Highlight the brevity of life through historical examples, such as Jonathan Edwards' Resolutions (e.g., "Resolved: never to lose one moment of time, but improve it in the most profitable way I can"). Edwards focused on maximizing time for God's glory.
 - Reference the early church, which faced urgency in spreading the Gospel despite persecution.
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A – Assume Responsibility for My Time

Key Point: Time is a gift from God, and we are called to steward it wisely.

- Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-16: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil."
 - Biblical Character: Nehemiah
 - Historical Context: Nehemiah took responsibility for rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. He didn't wait for someone else; he stepped up to act.
 - Application: Like Nehemiah, we must take responsibility for how we use our time to build up what glorifies God.
 - Reflection Question: Am I using my time intentionally to fulfill God's purpose?
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B – Believe God Will Help Me

Key Point: Trusting in God's strength empowers us to achieve His plans for our lives.

- Scripture: Philippians 4:13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
 - Biblical Character: Gideon
 - Historical Context: Gideon was called to lead Israel despite his doubts. He trusted in God's power and accomplished what seemed impossible.
 - Application: When we feel overwhelmed by life's demands, we can believe that God will guide and sustain us.
 - Reflection Question: Do I trust that God will equip me for what He's called me to do?
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C – Clarify What's Most Important

Key Point: Prioritize what brings glory to God and has eternal value.

- Scripture: Matthew 6:33: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
 - Biblical Character: Mary of Bethany
 - Historical Context: When Jesus visited, Mary chose to sit at His feet and listen while Martha was distracted by busyness. Jesus affirmed Mary's choice as the "better thing."
 - Application: Clarify your priorities by focusing on your relationship with Jesus and serving His kingdom.
 - Reflection Question: Are my priorities aligned with God's eternal purposes?
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- **Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, You are the author of time and the giver of life. Teach us to number our days, that we may live wisely and glorify You in all we do. Strengthen us to act boldly, trust fully, and prioritize what matters most. May Your grace guide us into this New Year, bringing all glory to You. Amen."
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D – Don't Wait to Begin

Key Point: Act now! The time to glorify God is today, not tomorrow.

- Scripture: James 4:14: "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."
- Biblical Character: The Disciples (calling of Peter and Andrew)
- Historical Context: When Jesus called them to follow Him, they immediately left their nets and followed Him. They didn't hesitate to begin their journey with Christ.
- Application: Don't procrastinate on what God is calling you to do. Start today!
- Reflection Question: What step can I take today to bring glory to God?

Closing Uplifting Gospel Message:

- Life's greatest purpose is found in Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, He has redeemed us and given us eternal hope.
- Quote John 17:4: "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." Jesus' perfect use of His time glorified the Father and secured our salvation.
- Encourage the congregation: "In Christ, we are empowered to use every moment to glorify God. His grace redeems our past, strengthens us in the present, and assures us of a glorious future."

Call to Action: Challenge: Start this New Year by surrendering your time to God. Spend time in prayer, asking Him to reveal how you can live for His glory.

This sermon outline is motivating, uplifting, and deeply rooted in biblical truth and the Gospel of Jesus. It calls the congregation to live intentionally and trust in God's grace to make every moment count.

Spiritual Truth: Time is a precious gift from God, given to us to glorify Him and fulfill His purpose. As stewards of this gift, believers are called to live intentionally, trusting in God's grace and power to guide their steps. Through Jesus Christ, we are redeemed from the past, empowered in the present, and assured of an eternal future. When we prioritize God's kingdom above all else, our lives become a testimony to His glory, and we experience the fullness of His love and purpose.

Scripture Supporting This Truth: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31--"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – Ephesians 2:10 This spiritual truth reminds believers that every moment is an opportunity to reflect Christ's light and love, and it calls us to embrace our time as a means of worship and service to Him.

God's Whisper to Your Heart: "I have entrusted you with time, talents, and opportunities—not to burden you, but to bless you. Use them to glorify Me, for My plans for you are good. Step forward in faith, and I will be with you every step of the way." Let this truth inspire you to live intentionally, with purpose and joy, as you bring glory to the One who loves you beyond measure.

What God Wants You to Know About These Themes

1. **Your Time is a Gift:** God wants you to know that every moment of your life is a gift from Him, carefully entrusted to you. He desires for you to steward your time wisely, not for worldly pursuits but for His eternal purposes. (Psalm 90:12)
 2. **You Were Created with Purpose:** God designed you uniquely to glorify Him. He has prepared specific works for you to accomplish, using the talents and resources He has given you. Your life matters deeply to Him, and He delights in seeing you live for His glory. (Ephesians 2:10)
 3. **Trust in His Guidance:** God doesn't leave you to figure it out alone. He walks with you, strengthens you, and helps you prioritize what's truly important. When you seek Him first, everything else falls into place. (Matthew 6:33)
 4. **Don't Wait to Begin:** God wants you to live with urgency, knowing that tomorrow is not promised. He invites you to trust Him and start today, stepping out in faith to live for His glory. (James 4:14)
 5. **Jesus is Your Source of Strength:** Through Jesus, you are redeemed and empowered to use your time, talents, and resources for God's kingdom. His grace covers your past, equips you in the present, and secures your eternal future. (Philippians 4:13)
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Here's a 7-day devotional titled "Time, Purpose, and God's Glory" that reflects the themes of using time wisely, living purposefully, and glorifying God. Each day includes a Gospel message, historical context, biblical characters, scripture, a call to action, a spiritual quote, and a prayer.

Day 1: Time is a Gift

Scripture to Read: Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Historical Context: The Psalms were often written in moments of reflection on God's eternal nature and humanity's fleeting days. Psalm 90, attributed to Moses, emphasizes life's brevity and the need for godly wisdom to live meaningfully.

Biblical Character: Moses understood the value of time as he led the Israelites through the wilderness, relying on God to guide their every step.

Gospel Truth: Through Jesus, we are redeemed from the bondage of sin and empowered to use our time for God's glory. Each moment is an opportunity to reflect Christ's love to the world.

Call to Action: Reflect on how you're using your time. Identify one change you can make today to prioritize God's purposes.

Spiritual Quote: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Instead, live for the One who gave you life." – Unknown

Prayer: Lord, teach me to value the time You've given me. Help me use it for Your glory, reflecting Your love and grace in everything I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2: Created with Purpose

Scripture to Read: Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Historical Context: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians to remind them of their identity in Christ, emphasizing that salvation is a gift of grace and that believers are called to fulfill God's purposes.

Biblical Character: Esther courageously embraced her God-given purpose to save her people, recognizing that she was placed in her position "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Gospel Truth: In Christ, you are a new creation, designed uniquely to glorify God and serve His kingdom.

Call to Action: Pray for clarity about your God-given purpose and look for one opportunity today to serve others.

Spiritual Quote: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away for God's glory." – Pablo Picasso (adapted)

Prayer: Lord, thank You for creating me with a purpose. Show me how to use my gifts to bring glory to You and bless others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3: Trusting God's Guidance

Scripture to Read: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Historical Context: Proverbs was written to impart wisdom, teaching believers to depend on God's guidance rather than their own limited perspective.

Biblical Character: David sought God's guidance repeatedly, whether as a shepherd, warrior, or king, trusting Him to direct his steps.

Gospel Truth: Jesus is your Shepherd, leading you through life's uncertainties. His guidance is trustworthy because His plans for you are good.

Call to Action: Take time to pray before making decisions, big or small, trusting God to guide you.

Spiritual Quote: "God doesn't just show the way; He is the Way." – John 14:6

Prayer: Lord, I trust You to guide my steps. Help me surrender my plans to You and walk in the path You've prepared for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God Loves YOU!!!!!!

Day 4: Don't Wait to Begin

Scripture to Read: James 4:14 "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Historical Context: James wrote to encourage believers to live faithfully and humbly, emphasizing the fleeting nature of life and the urgency of obedience to God.

Biblical Character: The rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) hesitated to follow Jesus, missing the opportunity to embrace eternal life.

Gospel Truth: Jesus invites you to follow Him now, without delay. His grace covers your past, and His Spirit empowers your future.

Call to Action: Take one concrete step today toward a goal or calling God has placed on your heart.

Spiritual Quote: "Do it now. Sometimes 'later' becomes 'never.'" – Unknown

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to act in faith and obedience today. Help me seize every moment to live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: Living to Glorify God

Scripture to Read: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Historical Context: Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to let every aspect of their lives point to God's glory, even in the mundane.

Biblical Character: Paul himself lived to glorify God, enduring hardships and proclaiming Christ wherever he went.

Gospel Truth: Jesus glorified the Father through His life, death, and resurrection, and now we are called to reflect His glory in our lives.

Call to Action: Identify one area of your life where you can intentionally bring glory to God this week.

Spiritual Quote: "A life lived for God is a life well-lived." – Charles Spurgeon

Prayer: Lord, may every word and action of mine bring glory to You. Help me to reflect Your love and grace to the world around me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 6: Redeeming the Time

Scripture to Read: Colossians 4:5 "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

Historical Context: Paul encouraged the Colossians to live with purpose and integrity, making the most of their interactions with others to point them to Christ.

Biblical Character: Nehemiah used every moment wisely to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, fulfilling God's mission with diligence and prayer.

Gospel Truth: Jesus redeems not only your life but also your time, giving every moment eternal significance.

Call to Action: Look for opportunities to share God's love with someone today, whether through words or actions.

Spiritual Quote: "Make today count for eternity." – Unknown

Prayer: Lord, help me to make the most of every opportunity, using my time to bless others and glorify You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Whisper to Your Heart:

"I have entrusted you with time, talents, and opportunities—not to burden you, but to bless you. Use them to glorify Me, for My plans for you are good. Step forward in faith, and I will be with you every step of the way."

Let this truth inspire you to live intentionally, with purpose and joy, as you bring glory to the One who loves you beyond measure.

Day 7: Living with Eternal Perspective

Scripture to Read: Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Historical Context: Jesus taught His followers to focus on God's kingdom, trusting Him to provide for their needs. **Biblical Character:** Abraham lived with an eternal perspective, trusting God's promises even when they seemed distant.

Gospel Truth: Jesus promises that when we focus on Him, He provides all we need, both now and for eternity.

Call to Action: Evaluate your priorities and realign them to reflect an eternal perspective.

Spiritual Quote: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." – C.T. Studd

Prayer: Lord, fix my eyes on eternity. Help me seek Your kingdom above all else and trust You with the rest. In Jesus' name, Amen.

This 7-day devotional is designed to inspire all believers to live with purpose, gratitude, and an eternal focus, always pointing to God's grace in Jesus.
