

Garret Intro

Interesting one tonight with time.

The question is this.... How can I best use the time God has given for His glory and Kingdom **and then**
What are the possible red flags in this pursuit?

To start we go to a popular verse about our time: **READ EPHESIANS 5:14-16**

Very simple right....**Walk carefully** - make the best use of your time - **because the days are evil.**

To say walk is to say, spend your time...How are you using the 24 hours a day you get.

The key thing from this passage is not really that we should make the best use of our time. I think we get that.

The key is really what our definition of "BEST" is. That's big. We'll end there.

For now – I want us to look at 3 big truths from Scripture about our time. And then look at some red flags from them.

1. Time is a gift from God to us – enjoy it greatly. (ECC 2:24-25)

Yes! That means to have fun...enjoy life...don't allow the stress of life to cloud out enjoying the life/time God has given. Time is a gift to us from God, to be enjoyed. **Don't walk through life moping & miserable.**

That's pretty simple right? For some reason there is this thought that Christians can't have fun and enjoy life.

Maybe we don't expect to see that in Scripture. But it's there. Life can be enjoyed greatly in Christ.

Maybe it's just all about the definition of fun/great....**(Much of life's confusion comes from Who's definition we follow)**

RED FLAG – Ensure your definition of enjoying life greatly is in line with God's definition. **POINT 2 helps with that.**

2. Time is fleeting – so use it wisely.

We are to enjoy life greatly....but not without using it wisely. Which means...I ask questions.

What's the best use of my time in this moment? What's the best way to ENJOY life now?

That's what **Psalms 90:12** says...GOD, HELP ME TO USE MY TIME WISELY. **WHY?** My days are numbered...they will end

That's what the **Eph. 5** is instructing....Make the BEST USE of YOUR TIME....USE IT WISELY.

(James 4:13-14) reminds us life is short.... Am I forsaking God's great thing for my great things? Am I using my time wisely?

RED FLAG: Don't wait until the point of decision to decide. Decide now how we will use our time. (lay the groundwork)

Am I using the time I have here wisely. How do I ensure I use my time wisely?

LAY A GOOD FOUNDATION: I'm In the Word – I'm around His people – I'm concerned about & seeking God's guidance.

Once you're at the moment of decision and the answer is not clear as to an unwise or wise thing:

I ASK GOOD QUESTIONS: Will this honor God? Would my parents think this is a good idea? WWJD?

Will this hurt my testimony for Christ? Will this embarrass my family? **Is this the best thing?**

I think these questions will help us as we define what God may consider enjoy life greatly.

The No Brainer RED FLAG – don't fill your time w/ stupid, sinful or unwise things.

The not so obvious RED FLAG is this - Too much of a good thing can be bad for you. **– Proverbs 25:16**

Reading the Bible is good but If I only ever read my Bible, all day, every day...that wouldn't be the best thing.

Going to church is good but If I only ever went to Church...just stay there all week until the next Sunday, not great.

Decorating for Christmas is good but too much gets a little tacky -

A day to chill on Netflix may be good but a month of nothing but Netflix chilling is not the best thing or even a good one.

Time is fleeting...we must use our time wisely...we do that by laying some good groundwork and asking good questions.

Your free time isn't free in the same way your life isn't – **1 Cor. 6:20** "you were bought with a price, so glorify God in your body."

3. How you use your time is a direct reflection of your heart.

This is the biggest red flag in the whole series really....guard or check your heart.

If we never checked our fuel gauge we'd be in serious trouble....we gotta check our hearts gauge.

And I get it...I'm not saying if you use your time horribly tomorrow, you're obviously not saved. **WE ALL FAIL IN THIS.**

But...how you use your time could be a clue as to the direction your heart is now going....

If we don't check this daily...die to self & follow Christ...we'll find ourselves way down a road we didn't mean to get on.

RED FLAG – CHECK YOUR HEART. Your heart is the key to how you honor God with your time.

MAIN IDEA: Time is a gift from God which deserves to be spent for His glory and enjoyed by us greatly.

TAKEAWAYS: Enjoy life greatly – Use Time Wisely – Check Heart Daily (FIRST/LAST STEP: Trust and Follow Christ)

Group Questions:

1. How do we find out how God describes a life enjoyed greatly?
2. What are some ways God would describe a life enjoyed greatly? (Ps. 16:11, Ps. 19:7-11, John 20:30-31, Mark 8:34)
3. What are some red flags to using your time to honor God and enjoy life greatly?
4. **What are some "good" things you are or are in danger of giving too much time?**
5. What is something you're putting off because you think TIME is guaranteed?
What is one thing you'd do if you knew today was your last day?