SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-21
SERMON: <u>The Stewardship of Time</u>
4 January 2015

INTRODUCTION: OLD THEME FOR A NEW YEAR

- A. A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS
- B. MORE RARE, MORE PRECIOUS (see Ps.90:9-12; 139:16)
- C. PRIVILEDGED DUTY: BUDGET, REDEEM (Ps.90:12(see Gen.1); Eph.5:16)

I. THE DEMANDS ON OUR TIME: PRESENT DEATH (Gen.2:17; 3:15f; Rom.8:22; see Lk.10:40-42)

- A. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES (see 1Tm.5:8; Eph.5:21-6:9)
- B. PARTICULAR OPPORTUNITIES (Gal.6:10; Eph.5:16; Col.4:5; Prv.3:27)
- C. SUMMARY: SO MUCH GOOD & SO LITTLE TIME! (Jn.9:4; Ps.90; Eph.5:16)

II. THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME: ETERNAL LIFE (Jn.6:47f, 12:50; 17:3)

- **A. LIMITATION: THE FATHER'S WILL** (Jn.4:34; 5:19,30; 8:28f; Ps.90:12)
 - 1. goal: please God (Mt.6:33f; Lk.10:40f; Gal.5:22f; Phil.4:8)
 - 2. priorities: degree of affinity or responsibility (see Phil.2:5f; Eph.5:22-6:9; 1Tm.5:8; Gal.6:10)
 - 3. humility: submit to created & providential time limits (Jn.9:4; Gen.2:2; Ex.20:8f; see 1Pt.5:6,7)
 - 4. humility: limit your time commitments (Lk.10:38-42; Mt.6:33)
 - 5. tools: means of grace (Acts 2:42; 1Pt.5:6,7; 2Tm.3:14f; Rom.8:14; Is.30:20f; Mk.1:35)
- **B. DELEGATION: THE BODY'S HELP** (1Cor.12:12f; Eph.4:16; see Ex.18:13f; Acts 6:1f)
- C. DIVISION: A TIME FOR EVERYTHING ... (see Gen.1; Eccl.3:1; 1Cor.14:40)
 - 1. natural divisions: day, month, year (sun, moon, seasons)
 - 2. moral division: Sabbath (Gen.2:2f(17; 3:16); Ex.20:8f; see Jn.20:1,19; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2; Rev.1:10)
 - 3. daily divisions: three, four, seven, twelve (Ps.55:17; Mk.6:48; Ps.119:164; Jn.11:9)
 - 4. principle: manageable units (see Ps.90:12; Gen.1; Mt.6:11,34)
 - 5. note: the wisdom of a calendar, planner, etc. that CONFESSES these truths

D. DISTRIBUTION: ... AND EVERYTHING IN ITS TIME (Ps.90:12)

- 1. fill each unit of time (Ps.90:12; Mt.6:34; Eph.5:16; see Gen.1:5,8,etc.; see Jms.4:13f)
- 2. seek provisions for each (Mt.6:11; Lam.3:22,23)
- 3. summary: spend your time carefully (Ps.90:12; Eph.5:16)
- 4. note: planning for tomorrow is a proper work for today (Mt.6:34; Lk.16:8,9; 2Cor.12:14; Jms.4:15)

E. PROTECTION: THE INTEGRITY OF EACH TIME

- 1. lust, greed: adding to one by stealing from another (Ex.20:15; see Jms.4:1f; Ps.127:2)
- 2. anticipation: stealing from today (see Mt.6:34)
- 3. procrastination: stealing from tomorrow (Prv.3:28; 6:6f; 10:5; 20:4)
- 4. note: exchange rather than steal
- F. SUMMATION: DO OUGHT, DELEGATE CAN, DROP MUST (note: work also in reverse)
- G. ILLUMINATION: WISDOM TO KNOW WHEN TO DO WHAT (Ps90:12; see Mt6:11 w/Mk.1:35; Heb5:14)
- **H. IMPARTATION: STRENGTH TO ACCOMPLISH** (Phil.4:13; Eph.3:16f; 2Cor.2:16; 3:5; 4:7)
- **I. FRUITION: ACTUAL DOING** (Jn.13:17; Phil.2:12f; Lk.6:46f; 16:10f; Jms.4:17 /Prv,slug /Heb.5:14; Phil.3:11f)

III. BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD OF GOD'S PRECIOUS GIFT OF TIME! (Lk.12:42; 1Pt.4:10)

- A. WORSHIP THE ETERNAL GOD: UNRESTRAINED BY TIME & SUSTAINING UNDER TIME! (Ps.90:1,2; 12; see 102:24-27; 139:16; Jn.17:5)
- **B.** KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO DO THE WILL OF GOD! (Mt.6:34; 26:45; Jn.8:29; Ps.139:16; 2Tm.4:6-8)
- C. DEVOTE YOURSELF TO MEANS OF GRACE SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW WHEN TO DO WHAT! (Acts 2:42; 2Tm.3:14-17; Heb.5:12-14)
- D. HUMBLE YOURSELF BY SUBMITTING TO GOD'S LIBERATING TIME LIMITATIONS! (Mt.6:34; Ps.127:2 with Ex.20:8f(Gen.1); see Jn.20:1,19; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2; Rev.1:10)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)