

Christian, how are you investing your quarantine time?  
Are you investing in eternity or entertainment?

All around the world governments are asking people to isolate by staying home. I keep hearing complaints about being stuck at home or jokes about the greatest concern being slow internet speeds preventing good reception for Netflix.

**Can I challenge you to lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven during this time (Matthew 6:19-20)?** You might be thinking, “How?” I’m glad you asked.

I am encouraging you to turn off the television or computer and open God’s Word so you can unpack all the riches that He has stored in the Bible for you.

Every day we are faced with a decision of how we will invest one of the greatest resources God has given us: our time. When it comes to time, nobody’s rich and nobody’s poor. We all get 24 hours each day and God expects us to make the wisest use of them.

**“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” - Ephesians 5: 15-16**

In my 16 years of vocational ministry as a pastor and missionary, when I encourage people to spend time cultivating their relationship with Jesus Christ, their Savior & God, they usually make excuses about being too busy and not having time to read the Bible and pray. Well, for the majority of us, Covid-19 has freed up our schedules. Time is no longer an excuse; and if we are honest, it never was. We always make time for what we value.

So, I challenge you to think back over the last week or two and count up the hours spent on Netflix, Hulu, youtube, etc. I am not saying that you should never enjoy entertainment. I love a good movie! What I am saying is that often we use entertainment as a mechanism to escape our problems by entering into a fictional world where nothing really matters.

Of course, if you are intentional, you can gain knowledge and insights for application in your life...but let's be honest, most people use screen time to disengage our brains. If you count up the hours you've spent on entertainment recently I think you will be surprised at how much of the precious commodity of time you have allowed to slip through your fingers when it could have been used for something of real substance...eternal substance... character building...perspective enhancing...joy giving...peace inducing... time with God.

I challenge you all...**ESPECIALLY MEN - HUSBANDS - FATHERS** - lead by example. God entrusted you with the responsibility to be the spiritual leaders of your homes, your churches, and communities. Don't just be stuck at home. Get alone with God!

- Set a goal of how much time you will spend reading the Bible.
- Set a goal of how much time you will spend in prayer.
- Set a goal of how much time you will spend reading books that will deepen your understanding and application of the Bible.
- Set a goal of how much time you will spend listening to sermons, lessons, seminars, and interviews on Christian podcasts.

It's okay to start fairly small. Think of it like bodily exercise. If you are out of the habit you don't want to start off with too much weight, too much time, too many reps, but if you are consistent then you will build up your endurance and strength. Before long you won't be content with light weight, little time, or few reps. You will hunger for more.

So, maybe start with 10 minutes of Bible reading, 10 minutes of prayer, 10 minutes of reading a good book and 30 minutes of a podcast. That makes

up a full hour spent with God each day to build your inner man. Guys, you can do this. You should do this. You NEED TO DO THIS!

You just might find this time of quarantine to be one of the greatest periods of spiritual growth in your lifetime. God took Moses, Elijah, and Paul (to name just a few) through lengthy periods of isolation as times of preparation for great responsibilities and opportunities that awaited them. Be intentional and let this time of isolation be a time of preparation for you.

Psalms 119:97-104

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commands are always with me  
and make me wiser than my enemies.

<sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers,  
for I meditate on your statutes.

<sup>100</sup> I have more understanding than the elders,  
for I obey your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I have kept my feet from every evil path  
so that I might obey your word.

<sup>102</sup> I have not departed from your laws,  
for you yourself have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> I gain understanding from your precepts;  
therefore I hate every wrong path.