

Camp 2021

# LECTURE 1

REDEEMING THE TIME

## UNDERSTANDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE HOUR AND ADVANCING IN PROPHETIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

For this reason tongues are for a sign, not to those who have faith, but to those who have not: but the prophet's word is for those who have faith, and not for the rest who have not. (1Co 14:22 BBE)

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to the unbelieving: but prophesying is for a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to them that believe. (1Co 14:22 ASV)

So the gift of speaking in other languages is a sign for unbelievers, not for believers. The gift of speaking what God had revealed is a sign for believers, not for unbelievers. (1Co 14:22 GW). And hence the prophet writes,

“The final conflict is near at hand, but many are asleep regarding the responsibilities of the hour. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” {RH, September 27, 1906 par. 12}

In this study it is my hope that the Spirit of God will lead us to the understanding of truth as He intends for us at this critical time and during this camp so we will understand what the will of the lord is in reference to duties, old and new and truth and especially prophetic understandings for this time which indeed will involve new and clearer understandings. We are told in scripture that we should be “no longer children, sent this way and that, turned about by every wind of teaching, by the twisting and tricks of men, by the deceits of error;” but we are to continue in truth “until all of us are united in our faith and in our knowledge about God’s Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.”

Our first passage is found in Ephesians 5. The beloved apostle in admonition to his beloved brethren, told them that they should be, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Eph 5:16 ASV).

Other translations give the following renderings,

These are evil times, so make every minute count. (Eph 5:16 CEV)

I mean that you should use every opportunity you have for doing good, because these are evil times. (Eph 5:16 ERV)

Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days. (Eph 5:16 GW)

What is the divine thought being conveyed to us by the Spirit of God through the apostle in this passage? We have been admonished to redeem the time. We have been told what to do and why.

Christ died to redeem us. By the infinite price with which he ransomed us he has shown his love for us. He is not willing that any should perish. He desires all to believe on him, that they may have eternal life. {RH, February 11, 1904 par. 4} He brought the human race back into favour with God. He paid the infinite redemption price for

a lost world.

How then shall the time remaining be redeemed? The above scriptures suggest that there must be a buying up of every favourable opportunity and letting none slip. The favorable opportunity becomes ours at the price of duty.

“We are admonished to redeem the time. But time squandered can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being coworkers with God in His great plan of redemption. In those who do this, a transformation of character takes place. They become sons and daughters of God, members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. They are fitted to be companions of the angels. {BLJ 78.4}

The terrible disasters that are befalling great cities ought to arouse us to intense activity in giving the warning message to the people in these congested centers of population while we still have an opportunity. The most favorable time for the presentation of our message in the cities has passed by. Sin and wickedness are rapidly increasing; and now we shall have to redeem the time by laboring all the more earnestly.—Medical Ministry, p. 310.

The apostle further writes in Colossians chapter 4, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Colossians 4:5, NKJV. Be wise in the way you act with those who are not believers. Use your time in the best way you can. (Col 4:5 ERV)

It is true that we are commanded to “cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1). This message must be given; but while it must be given, we should be careful not to thrust and crowd and condemn those who have not the light that we have. . . {BLJ 265.2}

What therefore is involved for us in the duty of redeeming the time? Can it be done? How is it done?

Redeeming the time will include showing our repentance for past wrongs and making restitution to anyone who have been wronged by us.

Redeeming the time must mean praying as we never before prayed for beams from the Sun of Righteousness to shine upon the word, that we may be able to understand its true meaning. Real prayer not repetition of flowery words.

Jesus pleaded that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth—the Word of God.

Then how earnestly should we pray that He who “searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God,” He whose office it is to bring all things to the remembrance of God’s people, and to guide them into all truth, may be with us in the investigation of His Holy Word. TM111.

Redeeming the time must mean therefore being guided by the Spirit of truth moment by moment.

Redeeming the time must mean that no time will be spent in selfish pleasure. Why? The hours thus spent are lost for all eternity.

Redeeming the time means that we cannot engage in any amusement in which we cannot ask the blessing of God upon it in faith.

Redeeming the time must mean conversing and meditating on only profitable subjects. Why you ask? Well are there not more than enough profitable subjects upon which to meditate and converse. And should not our conversation be in heaven, where we are looking for the Saviour? Such meditation will bring with it the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Redeeming the time must mean avoiding any amusement which renders you unfit for secret prayer or public prayer for that would be dangerous to our soul and would be a squandering of the time.

Redeeming the time must mean that our time should be ever employed to advantage or benefit of others.

Be on the watch, and make strong the rest of the things which are near to death; because as judged by me your works have not come up to God's measure. (Rev 3:2 BBE)

Redeeming the time must mean a new awakening, understanding and appreciation that the value of time is beyond computation and hence every opportunity must be bought up. It was so regarded by Christ.

Redeeming the time must mean the most earnest preparation for the searching judgment of God now taking place. "I can guarantee that on judgment day people will have to give an account of every careless word they say. By your words you will be declared innocent, or by your words you will be declared guilty." (Mat 12:36-37 GW)

Redeeming the time must mean that the believers pray for and receive the gifts so that the church come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our lord Jesus Christ. 1cor 1:7 and they are needed even now in this camp. God's purpose in giving the gifts must be received.

Redeeming the time must mean that the Testimony of Christ must be confirmed in the church of Christ.

The gifts constitute the means whereby God preserves His people from confusion by;

- (a) Pointing out errors in gospel or prophetic understandings
- (b) By correcting false interpretations of the Scriptures,
- (c) Causing light to shine out upon that which is in danger of being wrongly understood,  
and therefore of being the cause of evil and division to the people of God.

(d) In short, the work of the gifts in the church is to unite the people of God in the same mind and in the same judgment upon the meaning of the Scriptures.

The great Teacher says, Redeeming the time must mean learning and finding rest for our weary souls. For He says "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Redeeming the time must mean to arise from slumber and see the light of day the light of the sun. It is written "Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Eph.5:14

Redeeming the time must mean that at this time we should be waiting, watching, and working.

Redeeming the time must mean through faith in Christ we should be alive to God; and every man, woman, and child who has a knowledge of the truth should be able to discern the signs of the times.

Redeeming the time must mean the weakness and inefficiency of the church must pass away and must give place to order, promptness, strength of action, accomplishing the various tasks with minimum use of time and effort.

Redeeming the time must mean having the mind uplifted to God in all times and in all places.

Says the psalmist: “Thy testimonies are my meditation.” “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” Psa 119v 99, Psa 119v 104.

When the mind is thus filled, the soul will thus continue in prayer, and watch unto the same with thanksgiving; and the believer in Christ will be able to bring forth good things from the treasure of the heart, speaking of Christ, his mercy, his love, and compassion.

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die.” When the eyesalve is applied, many will see as never before, their life of unfulfilled duties, and will be conscience-stricken. But the words of the inspired apostle present, now, just now, hope to those who have been lagging behind and now are trembling for the future. He says, “Redeeming, the time, because the days are evil.” Remember, all depends on the use you make henceforth of your intrusted talents. If you refuse to use your powers, they will surely become weak, and decay. God has given to every man his work. {PH002 21.1}

Let your faith lay hold of His promises, and break forth in praise and thanksgiving to Him.

The apostle Paul in writing to the Ephesian brethren express his desire for them that they should “be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine;” but that they should all come into “the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” He entreated those who were followers of Jesus in heathen communities not to walk “as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God . . . but as wise, redeeming the time.” Ephesians 4:14, 13, 17, 18; 5:15, 16.

The second chapter of 2 Peter presents the true condition of the world at this time, and the third chapter is full of warnings and counsel for the followers of Christ. 1 Peter 1:1-11 also contains the very instruction that we need. Shall we heed these admonitions of the Lord?

Let us now arise, and redeem the time. Everything in the universe calls upon those who know the truth to consecrate themselves unreservedly to the proclamation of the truth as it has been made known to them in the third angel’s message. That which we see of the needs of the millions of colored people in the South, calls us to our duty. We are not to become dispirited and disheartened over the outlook. The Lord lives and reigns. PAMHLETS. SpTB08. Chapter 5.

Yours in redeeming the time

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