

Theology of time Management: Glorifying God with the Resource of Time

Pastor Joel Albright - FBC - Adult Sunday School for Spring, 2021

Lesson #1- Understanding the Scope & Scriptural Framework of GGTM

Key Verse: Eph. 5:15-17 **15** *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. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

Q: What are some key words to get use to thinking about?

- Purpose, Mission, Roles, Responsibilities, Wisdom, Prioritizing, Planning, Habits, Process.

Q: What is Pastor Joel's background and burden regarding this topic?

Q: What are Pastor Joel's goals for you over these 6 weeks?

1. To inspire you with a vision of growth in this area. Trust the process!
2. To convince you of Scriptures sufficiency in this area.
3. To equip you with resources and principles in this area.

I. Anticipate The 6 Major Components of GGTM

Q: What do believers need in order to glorify God in our time management and schedule planning?

Lesson 1 - *Understand the scope and Scriptural framework of GGTM*

Lesson 2 - Identify your God-given roles & responsibilities of GGTM

Lesson 3 - Articulate God-glorifying goals and mission in GGTM

Lesson 4 - Discern wisdom in choices of GGTM

Lesson 5 - Formulate wise short-term plans in GGTM

Lesson 6 - Maintain God-glorifying habits of in GGTM

Q: What can you expect each week?

- A punctual start time and budgeted teaching time
- A brief time for article discussion
- A Scriptural spotlight
- A teaching time working through class notes:
- A demonstration of practical exercises and a system
- A challenge for the following week

II. Evaluate Your Personal Areas of Needed Growth in GGTM

This class is for everyone!

A. Fill out Personal Evaluation Questionnaire This week - Answer questions thoughtfully and honestly to give yourself some indications on where you need to shore up.

- Identify your common struggle: "I'm not organized," "I'm overwhelmed," "I'm stressed," "I'm too busy." "I am addicted to time wasters", "The screen is strangling my soul," "I don't know how to plan my months, weeks, day." "I'm a procrastinator," "I live under the tyranny of the urgent," "I have no space for walking with God," "I wish I had more time for serving in and through the church," "my life is out of control."
- Identify your strengths/weaknesses:
 - *Person A*: Strong with organization, planning/time management, but weak with connecting discipline to God's mission in life.
 - *Person B*: Weak with organization, planning/time management, but strong with living for God's mission for His glory.
 - *Person C*: Weak on organized planning/time management, and weak on giving attention to God's purposes for his life.
 - *Person D*: Somewhere in the middle of these

B. Beware of idols associated with time management

1. The idol of Laziness - The lazy person is diligent at making excuses. We have a propensity to this because we are a click away from mindless entertainment. Can be connected with idols of addiction, entertainment or comfort.
2. The idol of Busyness - The same root of pride lurks in both laziness and busyness. Sometimes we connect our value to our busyness. Sometimes we equate busyness with fruitfulness; or busyness with diligence. "Busyness can cover up the rot in our souls" (Kevin DeYoung) busyness might be a cover up for neglecting priorities or primary responsibilities.
3. The idol of Productivity - Mastering time management techniques for a selfish end. This cuts to our motives. This idol can be connected to other idols of comfort, or perfectionism.

B. Commit to a personal goal/process of what you need to get out of this class.

- Sign up for the weekly email/reminder
- Commit to be here and to take the weekly equipping challenges.
- Try not to view this as a "self-help" class.
- Try not to look for "quick-fixes", look for lasting change.

III. Establish A Scriptural Framework of GGTM

Q: So, what is a Scriptural framework for God-Glorifying Time Management? Consider the following 9 statements and passages, which forms a basis of a biblical theology of Time Management. These statements should shape our goals, expectations, motives and principles for choices of time.

A. You need an awareness of the eternity of God (Psalm 90, esp. V12)

- *Psalm 90:12 - So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*
- Result: It drives the believer to number the days God gives with an attitude of wisdom and fear of Him. It prevents him from living in willful ignorance.

B. You need an awareness of your purpose and mission in life (Is 43:7; Ps 96:3; Matt 5:16; Matt 22:26-40; Matt 28:18-20, Romans 11:36; I Cor 6:19-20; Eph. 1:3-14;)

- Look up these verses and articulate God's Mission and purpose for your life.
- Result: It gives the realization that you exist to glorify God. This means your big purpose for your life is to Enjoy God, Extol God, and Express God to others. This reminds us that we are not our own and time belongs to Him!

C. You need an awareness of the propensity for the flesh to keep you from living by the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:15-17)

- Result: It creates a circumspect carefulness and shrewdness of wisdom in time management. It serves as a perpetual reminder to the believer of God's will.

D. You need an awareness of God in every decision in contrast to the folly of living life as if God does not exist (James 4:13-17).

- God is God. God is the only one who gets his to do list done every day.
- Result: It demands a consideration of God in every decision. It cultivates a sweet submission to His providence. It prevents us from being practical Atheism. This is the antidote to thorns and thistles

E. You need an awareness of eternal priorities in contrast to temporal pursuits. (Matthew 6:33)

- Result: It keeps us from wasting energy on temporal things. We are liberated from worry. We trust God. Busyness does not mean you are a faithful or fruitful Christian. Jesus is the judge of this, and the Spirit is the one that produces fruit.

F. You need an awareness of the folly of laziness and pride (Proverbs 6:6-11; James 4:6)

- Pride takes on a thousand faces.
- Result: It helps us to strategically plan and ahead and anticipate. We prevent procrastination and avoid living under the tyranny of the urgent, freeing more time to serve God and others. It keeps us honest over personal flesh bents of laziness, busyness and selfishness

G. You need an awareness of the premier prototype of Time management: Jesus

(Mark 1:35-39)

- Result: We imitate Jesus' model of ministry for depending on the Father, submitting to the Spirit, and sacrificing for others.

H. You need an awareness of the Gospel call to Christian Suffering (I Peter 4:1-2)

- If our goal is personal comfort, we are living in conflict with the gospel.
- Result: Rather than living for comfort or self-centered living, we live with a sense of Christian mission and anticipation of being with Christ. experience what Paul said in Phil 3:8.

I. You need an awareness of God's definition and evaluation of productivity (Gal

5:16-25; II Cor 5:1)

- Result: We use God's measuring tools to define productivity. We are free to love others!

<p>IV. Accept the Challenges for this Class and this Week</p>
--

A. Accept the big 6-week challenge

- Order a recommended book on GGTM & read over the next 6 weeks
- Complete all 6 weekly challenges
 - #1 - Scripture Highlight to read/study
 - #2 - Article highlight to harmonize
 - #3 - Practical exercise

B. Accept the small 1-week challenge

- **#1 - Scripture Highlight:** Read, study, meditate on Psalm 90.
- **#2 - Article Highlight:** Read *The Preciousness of Time and the Importance of Redeeming it & The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards* - by Jonathan Edwards. Highlight your 3 takeaway quotes.
- **#3 - Practical Exercise** - Carefully complete the Personal Evaluation Questions sheet.