

THE VALUE OF A DAY

TEXT: *Ephesians 5:16: Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

If you had a bank that accredited to your account each morning the sum of \$86,400 but refused to carry over any balance from day to day because they expected you to use up the entire amount daily, what would you think? What if every morning they cancelled whatever part of that amount you had failed to use during the day, allowing you to leave no cash in your account as a nest egg against tomorrow? What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!!

Well, you do have such a bank, and its name is "TIME." Every morning God accredits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever of this time you have failed to invest to good purposes. It carries over no balance and allows no overdrafts. If you fail to use the day's deposit, the loss is yours. There is no going back, no drawing against "tomorrow". So invest your seconds wisely so that they will give you the utmost in happiness, success, and eternal benefits.



YOUR TREASURE AND YOUR HEART

William James once wrote, "*The great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.*" Thinking about that statement helps to open up the meaning of time, talent, and treasure in relation to God and eternity. Christians have been slow to recognize the importance of stewardship to the point where immortal souls have been crippled in their spiritual growth.

Someone has said that "*people make a successful effort never to discuss money in front of friends or relatives because money in our society is the ultimate reality, and to discuss it is to reveal oneself.*" This is not true of the Christians for whom the ultimate reality is God. Therefore, the Christian can talk



freely about money knowing that he has nothing to hide.

It has been estimated that one out of every ten members of the church becomes angry when the pastor speaks about the stewardship of money. This is, of course, only a guess, but suppose it *is* true. Does not the pastor have a responsibility toward the nine who welcome the emphasis and are willing to accept the challenge?



Stewardship has to do with our time, our talents, and our treasures. But is it not true that “our treasure” becomes the key to the other two? Jesus said:

Matthew 6:21: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:34: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

There is more Christianity — or lack of — in the way we handle our money than most of us realize.

THE VALUE OF TWO SPECIAL DAYS

There are two days of the week about which I never worry, for they are carefree days, kept sacredly protected from fear and apprehension.

1. One of these two days is **YESTERDAY.**

Yesterday — with all its cares and frets, with all its pains and aches, all its faults, mistakes, and blunders — has passed forever beyond the reach of my recall. **I cannot undo an act that I wrought. I cannot unsay a word I said yesterday.**

All that yesterday holds of my life — all the wrongs, regrets, and sorrow — are in the hands of God Almighty. He alone can bring honey out of the rock, and sweet waters out of the bitterest desert. He’s the God of Love that can make wrong things right, can turn weeping into laughter, and can give beauty for ashes, a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, and joy in the morning for the woe of the night.

Apart from the beautiful sweet and tender memories that linger like perfumes of roses in the heat of the day that are now gone, I have nothing to do with

yesterday. It was mine; now it is God's.

2. The other day I do not worry about is **TOMORROW**.

With all of its possible adversities, burdens, perils, big promises, poor performances, failures, and mistakes, it is as far beyond the reach of my mastery as its dead sister, yesterday. Tomorrow is a day of God. Its sun will rise in roseate splendor, or behind a mask of weeping clouds.



But tomorrow *will* rise. I have no possession in the unborn day of Grace. All else is in the safe keeping of the Infinite God Who holds for me a treasure of yesterday. His love is higher than the stars, wider than the skies, deeper than the seas. TOMORROW is *God's* Day, and it will be mine.



There is left for myself, then, **BUT ONE DAY OF THE WEEK — TODAY**. With faith and trust in the Lord, any man can fight the battles of today, and any woman can carry the burdens of just one day.

O friend, it is only when the burdens and cares of today which are carefully measured out to us by the Infinite Wisdom and Might that gives with them the following promise:

Deuteronomy 33:25b: . . . as thy days, so shall thy strength be.



We willfully add the burdens of those two awful eternities — YESTERDAY and TOMORROW — that we break down. It isn't the experience of TODAY that drives men mad. It is the remorse of something that happened YESTERDAY, and the dread of what TOMORROW may disclose.

These are God's days, so leave them with Him.

*Therefore, I think, and I do, and I journey but one day at a time.
That is the easy day. That is man's day.
Nay rather, that is OUR DAY ... God's and mine.*

*And, while faithfully and dutifully I run my course,
And work my appointed task on that DAY OF OURS,
God the Almighty and the All Loving One
Takes care of yesterday and also tomorrow.*

By Robert J. Burdette

Psalms 118:24: This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 6:34a: Take therefore no thought for the MORROW: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.

*Not yesterdays load we are called on to bear
Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;
Why should we look forward or backward with dismay?
Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.
One day at a time, and the day is HIS Day;
HE hath numbered its hours, though they haste away
HIS grace is sufficient; we walk not alone;
As the day, so the strength that HE giveth to HIS Own.*

By Annie Johnson Flint



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