

The Last of the Last Days Requires Redeeming the time!"

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 5:15-17

NKJV: See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

NLT: So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

CONSIDER THIS.....

Each new day brings us 24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86,000 seconds, each moment a precious gift from God, each calling for us to be good stewards, mindful that one day we must give an account for how we spent the time God loaned us, how effectively we "bought up" the opportunities He provided. If someone gave us \$1440 each day and said spend it or lose it, how diligent would we be to comply? Yesterday is but a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is all of the cash that you have. Spend it wisely.

I. LESSON POINT #1---What Does It Mean To "Redeem" The Time?

- a. When we are instructed by the Lord through the Apostle Paul to "Redeem the time," we are meaning "redeeming" the time we are living in!
 - i. Or, in other words, understanding the time we are living in, and making the most of this time we are living in, making the most of every opportunity we are given, to transform it into the glory of God!
- b. To completely understand what to "Redeem our Time" truly means, we have to look at the original Greek, the language Paul wrote in, to understand it!

For
Deeper
Study...

*"The Greek word used here in our text is the word **exagorazo** which literally means to "buy out of the market place." The picture is of a merchant who diligently seeks to buy up the best bargains in the market place, taking care not to miss the fleeting opportunities! REDEEM is in the present tense which calls for us to make it our lifestyle, our daily, moment by moment practice, to buy up for ourselves the strategic opportunities which God places in our path. If we are walking wisely, and are filled with God's Spirit, we will be spiritually alert to the divine opportunities in the "marketplace", and will begin to view people and circumstances not just as encounters (or irritations) in time but as opportunities to REDEEM people and impact eternity!"*

II. LESSON POINT #2---We Need To Redeem The Time Because The Last-Days "Harvest" Is Waiting For Us To Bring It In!

- a. Listen to what the Lord Himself tells us in Matthew 9:35-38 NLT.

³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

- b. The "CHARGE" has been given by the Lord to "GO INTO THE FIELDS" of the world, because the "HARVEST" is now READY!

- i. The question is: "Are we going to obey the Lord of the harvest and do the job we were "REDEEMED" for?"

- c. When we do obey the command to go into the harvest, we are "REDEEMING" the time!

- d. And we need to "REDEEM" the time, because the days we are living in are.....EVIL!

For Thought and Discussion...

Is it possible, that if the Church had taken the commands of Jesus to "Go Into All the World" more serious, is it possible that Jesus could have already Returned?



Before you answer, take a look at the Words of Jesus in Matt. 24:6-14

III. LESSON POINT #3---*We Need To Redeem The Time Because We Are In The Midst Of The Last Days Holy Spirit Outpouring And Revival!*

- a. Let's remind ourselves of the End-Time promise of the Lord found in **Joel 2:28-32a**

“Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. ²⁹ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. ³⁰ And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth—blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible^{fd} day of the LORD arrives. ³² But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved,...

- b. There is only ONE reason WHY the Holy Spirit is being “POURED OUT” upon ALL people, and that is found in the “INITIAL” outpouring on the Day of Pentecost in the Upper Room!

- i. Listen again to the Word of God in **Acts 1:8**

*But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

- c. Brothers and Sisters,.....**THIS IS THE HARVEST!**

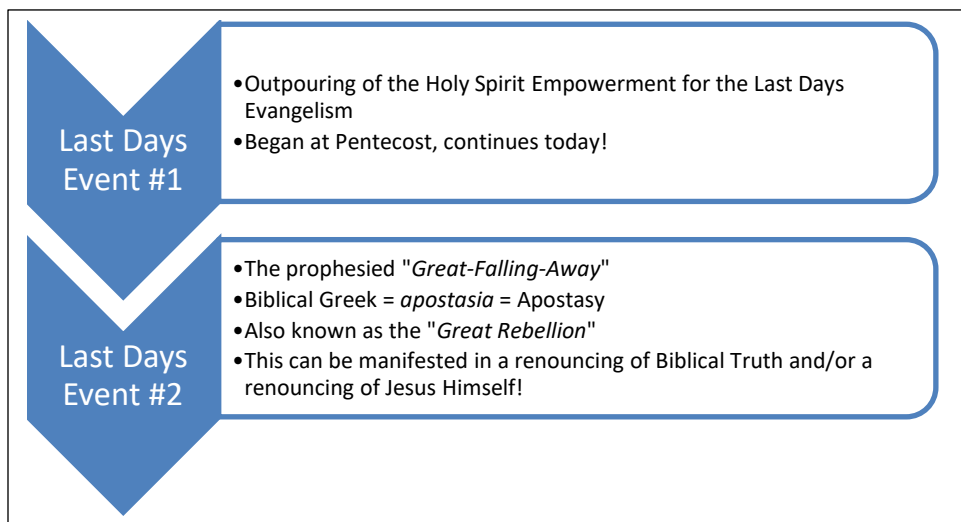
- i. The POWER of the Holy Spirit is for the PURPOSE of
.....**REDEMPTION!**

- d. The “LAST-DAYS” outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we are ALL so HUNGRY for, is for the purpose of the **REDEMPTION OF THE HARVEST!**

- i. THISIs how your “**REDEEM**” the **TIME** we are living in!

LESSON POINT # 4---We Need To Redeem The Time Because We Are In The Midst Of The Great Falling Away!

- e. There are 2-monumental, time-telling events that indicate to the Church what “**SEASON**” we are in!



- f. Again, let's remind ourselves of the prophesy given by the Lord through the Apostle Paul concerning the Last Days and the Great Falling away!

2 Thessalonians 2:2-3 NLT.

*Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion (**FALLING-AWAY**) against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction.*

- g. We have been led astray, as to what and when the Great Falling Away would take place because of bad Theology!
 - i. We have been mis-taught that it would not take place until WAY OFF IN THE FUTURE, some even teaching that it would not happen until after the RAPTURE of the Church!
- h. The truth of the matter is, the Great Falling Away is indicative of the SEASON and TIME we are living inRIGHT NOW,..... BEFORE the Rapture of the Church!
 - i. This Great Falling Away is a sign indicating to the Church that we are in the Last Days before the RETURN of Jesus!
 - ii. And, it serves as an indicator to the Church that it is TIME for REDEMPTION!
- i. We need to "REDEEM THE TIME" because we have been shown by the "GREAT FALLING AWAY," that we are in the LAST DAYS and it is the SEASON for REDEMPTION!

APPLICATION...

In your own words, give an application to this lesson...