

1 Kairos Time:

- the time worth keeping

2 Tonight's Scripture

- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Eph 5:15–17 NIV)
- Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Eph 5:18 NIV)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:19–20 NIV)

3 Quick Survey

- How many people here tonight regularly wear a wristwatch?
- How many people now use your Cell Phone as your primary means to keep time.
- Regardless of what timepiece you carry, it's clear that we live in a world obsessed with time.
- Rarely does anyone ask, "Do you have the time?" because everyone has it attached to their body in some way.

4 Time Management

- We have multiple apps for tracking our calendars, managing our deadlines and even timing our walk to the office.
- We have time staring at us from the corner of our computer screens, from the dashboard of the car and from the digital clock on the bank sign down the street.
- If you live in a city, you might even look up and see a classic old clock fixed on a historic building which has been marking the time for generations.

5 Time Management

- In some cities, in fact, telling time is literally a big deal.
- If you're in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for example, you can't help but see the Abraj Al Bait Towers clock just about anywhere you go.
- Its clock face is 141 feet in diameter, roughly the size of a luxury yacht, built on a tower that's almost 2,000 feet tall.

6 Time Management

- By comparison, Big Ben, arguably the most famous clock in the world, is almost 20 feet in diameter on a 314 foot high tower on the bank of the Thames.
- Other cities around the world have similar "big time" clocks to help residents and visitors track the time.
- Some of these clocks even assisting with chimes or bells when the clock strikes the hour.

7 Time Management Stress

- You'd think that the plethora of clocks in our world would make us better at managing our time, but the truth is that time management is one of the biggest stressors in our culture.
- We work too many hours, we have too many distractions, and we're trying to squeeze in more work in less time.
- Procrastination is often the result of being so overwhelmed with tasks that we keep putting things off, only to find that we're now even more squeezed for time.

8 Chronos

- The relentless ticking of the clock (or, in their case, the movement of the shadow around the sundial) is what the ancient Greeks referred to as chronos time, from which we get the word “chronology.”
- Chronology means the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
- So then, a watch is a “chronograph” and is suppose to keep track of the thing we are all running out of, which is time.

9 Kairos Time

- The Apostle Paul didn't wear a watch or carry a cell phone, but he was nevertheless always aware of time.
- However, instead of focusing on chronos time like a running clock, he was far more interested in kairos time.
- In other words, the Apostle Paul was more interested in the “purposeful use of time,” rather than time itself.
- While chronos time is quantitative, kairos is qualitative—signifying importance, opportunity, and fulfillment.

10 Kairos Time

- Kairos is the brand of time most often mentioned in the New Testament.
- As already stated, kairos refers more to a decisive time, the right time, the appropriate time.
- The writers of the New Testament seem to understand kairos in relation to the moment when God intervenes or is about to intervene in human history.
- The word can also mean the time that God's people have to prepare for the ultimate kairos, thus Paul's admonition to the Ephesians to “[make] the most of the time [kairos] because the days are evil” (v. 16).

11 Use of Kairos in the New Testament

- “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15 NIV)
- You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come.” (John 7:8 NIV)
- He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” (Matt 26:18 NIV)

- Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Rev 1:3 NIV)

12 **Kairos Time**

- It's that kairos expectation that should fuel the management of our chronos.
- Paul begins this section of the letter with a call to set the alarm clock.
 - The darkness of evil is about to be exposed by the bright dawn of God's coming kingdom, thus Paul tells the Ephesian church to "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but indeed expose them" because "everything exposed by the light becomes visible" (vv. 11, 13).
 - With the dawn about to break, Paul uses what may be a line from an ancient hymn as a wake-up call: "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (v. 14).

13 **Kairos Time**

- With that coming moment in mind, Paul urges the church, "Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise" (v. 15).
- Use your time wisely, in other words, by ordering your lives after the new reality that is breaking in.
- In this way, you will make the most of the kairos and live in ways consistent with the coming day of the Lord and not in step with the present evil that governs the daily calendar of much of the world.
- To "understand what the will of the Lord is," and to do it, is the best time management strategy in light of the coming of the Lord (v. 17).

14 **Kairos Time**

- Since the day and hour in which we live is so evil and full of people who walk in darkness and are therefore, no help to us spiritually speaking, we must take it upon ourselves to know the Lord.
- To do this, we must be very careful on how we live or handle the trials of life.
- For they are "kairos moments"—opportunities for us to practice our faith, so that we can grow in our knowledge of the Lord and understand His good and pleasing will—whereby we can finish the race.

15 **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit**

- However, we are not enlightened to true spiritual knowledge by indulging or overpowering the senses—like the Dionysians.
- The Dionysians thought by getting high on wine or other intoxicates would help them make contact with the gods.

- According to the Apostle Paul this only leads to debauchery—excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures and vice.
- Instead, we as Christians are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

16 **Be Filled**

- According to context of Ephesians 5:15-20, we are filled with the Spirit and grow in our knowledge of God, when we . . .
 - Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Building up others with God’s Word)
 - Sing and make music in our heart to the Lord. (Delighting ourselves in God’s goodness.)
 - Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything. (Expressing to God how grateful we are for His love and goodness in our lives.)

17 **Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit is desiring to take us into the deep things (truths) of God.
- His purpose is to give us the “mind of Christ,” so that we can have the understanding and wisdom we need to live out our faith in a world that is evil and full of darkness.
- So then, let us be filled with God’s Spirit and the deep things of God.
- Because when we have the “oil of divine illumination,” light shines on our path to keep us from falling or getting hurt.

18 **Chronos & Kairos**

- How we "make the most of the time" is thus a function of how well we use our chronos to focus on the kairos.
- When we face trials during the course of a normal day, we should look at them as kairos times—moments of opportunities to cultivate our relationship with God.
- When we do so, we will grow in our knowledge of God and produce fruit that only God’s grace can produce in us.
- However, it’s easy to misinterpret these trials as “kairos moments” and miss the opportunity to be filled with more of the Holy Spirit.

19 **God is For Us!**

- If the truth be known, a big reason why we have difficulty growing is because we don’t discern that trials are not problems but opportunities.
- If we all saw trials as opportunities to express our faith, we might all be further down the road in being filled with God’s Spirit than not.

- Nevertheless, I have good news! God is for us and not against us.

20 **Pure Joy**

- In the Epistle of James, the author instructs us to “consider it pure joy” when we face trials. (See James 1:1)
- Either James is an idiot or he knows something that is “deep truth.”
- His point is that trials give us opportunity to use our faith and when we exercise our faith it grows and becomes strong where we can finish the race.
- However, in the very same paragraph, James give us more “deep truth.”

21 **Wait Upon the Lord . . .**

- James says, If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5 NIV)
- According to the context, James is saying that if anyone needs wisdom on how to handle their trials then that person should ask God for help.
- Not necessarily to take away the trail(s) but wisdom on how to respond to them in a godly way, so that we can grow and be strong in our faith.
- Interesting point, we don’t have to be spiritual giants to receive this wisdom, but just a willingness to wait upon God and believe.

22 **Examples of Opportunities**

- Kairos time is whenever we have opportunity to make the most of our circumstances.
 - So when our boss or coworkers take advantage of us and we respond with God’s wisdom and act godly, we are making the most of our opportunity to grow, be filled with the Spirit, and let our light shine.
 - When someone in our family disappoints us—whether that is a child, spouse, parent, or sibling, we put in motion the work of God’s Holy Spirit inside us if we use God’s wisdom in our response.
 - If we see the world going to hell in a hand basket and respond with Christlikeness, we will find ourselves strong in the Lord and able to rise above the situation and be part of the solution, instead part of the problem.

23 **An Expression of Hate**

- This week in Charleston, South Carolina, a gunman (full of hate) opened fire during a prayer service in a Black Church, and killed 9 people in cold blood.
- In what could have easily sparked racial backlash and violence, it didn’t as praying Christians gathered to pray and offered forgiveness to the shooter.

24 **A Kairos Moment**

- The people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church knew that as horrific the event was, it was also a kairos moment as well—a time to put their faith into action.
- In doing so, they helped diffuse a situation that could have gone out of control.
- Not only this, but they won the respect of many around the world—even those who look negatively toward people of faith.
- So then as hard as the situation was, they responded in such a way that they made the most out of a difficult situation and even brought glory to God.

25 **Follow the Example of Christ**

- We are called to make the most out of all opportunities—by following Jesus Christ.
- In fact, we're supposed to set our eyes on Him and learn from His example.
- As it says in Hebrews, Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:2 NIV)
- Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb 12:3 NIV)

26 **Preparing our Hearts**

- Therefore, as we take Communion tonight, let us set our hearts to follow Him and make the most of all hardships and situations by doing the right thing.
- For if we do, we will be blessed and be filled with God's Spirit and peace.
- So then, Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. (Heb 12:7 NIV)
- No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Heb 12:11 NIV)

27 **Conclusion**

- Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Heb 12:12–13 NIV)
- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Eph 5:15–17 NIV)
- AMEN!

28 **It is time to follow Him . . .**