

INTRO: Tempus fugit (Lat.) = time flies. Discussion w/Prof. Jeff Gibbs
WRT time and eternity. Began w/evening and morning of
Gen.1. A measurable commodity. Let's think about how we use our
allotted time among one another.(brethren) People speak of their 'walk of
life'; mine is a dead run!

I. BE WISE WHILE REDEEMING THE TIME

A. Watch your 'walking around' as children of light (v.8)

1. i.e., the way you live your life
2. God is watching, of course
3. Paul wrote to those 'dead in trespasses...made alive' (Eph.2:1)
4. saved by grace (2:8) created in Christ Jesus unto good works (2:10)
5. and so also are we

B. Not as fools, but redeeming the time (v.15)

1. Greek = 'unwise' ergo, foolish
2. reminds of "Thou fool! This night..." (Luke 12:20)
3. redeem (Greek) = buying back the time; ransoming
4. probably = "make the most of your time"
5. it is limited, you know, so use it wisely; be ready...

C. Understanding the will of the Lord (v.17) = wise

1. (Prov.9:10) fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
2. contra fool who says in his heart "There is no God" (Ps.14:1)
3. truly known **only** through His revealed Word
4. and knowing self as unwise, abuser of 'time'
5. yet recipient of grace of God in Christ (2:8-9)
6. the will of God also is your sanctification (2:10)

II. BEWARE, WHILE REDEEMING THE TIME

A. (Beware) of Evil Days (v.16)

1. oldsters remember Fibber McGee, Jack Benny, Beaver Cleaver
2. unlike these times: Bart Simpson, Beavis and Butthead
3. a world which calls infanticide and sodomy to be 'rights'
4. tempting us to idolatrous individualism (me first) and
materialism (my stuff)
5. if only Paul could have seen **our** 'evil days'

(continued)

B. (Beware) of addictions

1. too easy to say "Aha, I'm not drunk with wine" (v.18)
2. Paul's shorthand for all addictions: chemical, nicotine, gambling; video games; internet; gluttony...
3. anything which replaces God in our conscious minds
4. worse, most addictions progress
5. but the worst sin is its obsession, compulsion over us

C. (Beware) of poor stewardship of time

1. 'redeeming the time' could mean 'making best use of time'
2. created by God; given to us in unknown, finite measure
3. time, too, belonging to Him as Lord, us as stewards
4. Who, in a sense, 'redeemed' and sanctified also our time
5. entering fullness of time at Nativity; using His time to redeem entire world from sin; successfully finishing His time
6. calling us by faith from time to eternity on our last day

III. BE FILLED WHILE REDEEMING THE TIME

A. With the (Holy) Spirit (v.18)

1. i.e., 3rd Person of Trinity; as we confess in creeds
2. whom you already have since your baptism (Acts 2:38-39)
3. 'when and where He pleases' like the wind (John 3)
4. promised to us via means of word and sacrament
5. ironic, not drunk with wine, which is vehicle of the Holy Spirit!

B. Singing (v.19)

1. 'speaking to one another' – not a personal possession of yours alone
2. psalms, hymns, songs should say something, not just 'feel good'
3. a message with a mood: penitential and also joyful
4. a message which will gladden your heart, if Christocentric
5. why, one can even 'think-sing'

C. With thanksgiving

1. which confesses Someone Else as the Giver
2. Who gave all, even His only-begotten Son
3. so we may 'walk the walk' and be forgiven when stumbling
4. the gift of the Spirit enables our walk

CONCLUSION: Today is our kickoff for another church year. Make the most of the days ahead and be filled with the Spirit.

God will bless your moments spent with His word and sacrament. And give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.