

The Christian's Everyday Problems

"Time"

Reading—[Job 14:1-2](#)

A. The Rock Story¹

B. Time is a precious commodity.

1. [James 4:14](#)—For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
2. [Job 14:1-2](#)—“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.”
3. The Christian's everyday problem is: using time appropriately.

#1 Temptations In Time

A. “I will live forever.”

1. We all know we'll die someday, but it must be far in the future.
2. [Psalm 90:12](#)—So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

B. Sin

1. [Ephesians 5:16](#)—redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
2. [1 Peter 4:3](#)—For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles...

C. Procrastination

1. Great words of the Bible are “NOW” and “TODAY”
2. [2 Corinthians 6:2](#)—NOW is the accepted time
3. What lists do we have of things we were “going to do tomorrow?”
 - a. Write a letter to or visit a sick person.
 - b. Start reading the Bible every day.
 - c. Apologize to that person.
 - d. Stop that bad habit.

D. Wasting Time

1. **Corrupt reading** [Philippians 4:8](#)—“Think on THESE things”
2. **Impure recreation** [2 Timothy 3:4](#)—“lovers of pleasure...”
3. **Worry** [Philippians 4:6](#)—Be anxious for nothing,
 - a. Past mistakes
 - b. The Future
 - c. Grudges

4. **Gossip** [Proverbs 20:19](#)—A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.
5. **Laziness, Long phone calls, being slow, being indecisive, TV, Computers, even WORK**—if you overdo it!

#2 Using Time Wisely [Ephesians 5:16-17](#)

A. Pay attention (Walk Circumspectly)

B. Redeem the Time.

1. Redeem means to “buy back”
2. Make a determined effort to do good things instead of evil.

C. Be Prepared.

1. “The days are evil”
 - a. be prepared for temptation
 - b. Use Jesus' strategy against temptation “It is written.”
2. “Understand what the will of the Lord is.”
 - a. [2 Peter 3:9](#)—The Lord is NOT willing that any should perish!”
 - b. Remember the story of the talents?
 - c. What was the will of the Master? That we use everything we have an are to please him, even if we make mistakes.
 - d. Be prepared for Jesus' coming
 - e. Repent and let everyone one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.

¹ A while back I was reading about an expert on subject of time management. One day this expert was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration I'm sure those students will never forget. After I share it with you, you'll never forget it either.

As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered over achievers he said, *"Okay, time for a quiz"*.

Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. He produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, *"Is this jar full?"*

Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

Then he said, *"Really?"*

He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

He smiled and asked the group once more, *"Is the jar full?"*

By this time the class was onto him. *"Probably not,"* one of them answered.

"Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He dumped the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked the question, *"Is this jar full?"*

"No!" the class shouted.

Once again he said, *"Good!"*

Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim.

He looked up at the class and asked, *"What is the point of this illustration?"*

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, *"The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"*

"No," the speaker replied, *"that's not the point. What this illustration teaches us is that, if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."*