



"...seek first the kingdom of God  
and His righteousness..."

## God First and My Time - February

### Purpose

- To realistically evaluate how well we spend/manage our time from a Godly perspective. (Remember **Mt. 6:33, Ex. 32:26**)
- What thoughts are conveyed by using the expression "my time?" (both positive and negative)

### Objective

- Building on last month's lesson on prioritizing, we need to examine ourselves and see how our time is prioritized. Is the cross of Christ and His example a *God-first* mentality seen in the way I manage my time?

### Thoughts

- We are all given and limited by the same amount of time. And no doubt there are things that "must" be done everyday. Consider the following article:

There are 1,440 minutes in a day. If you're like most people, work, school and sleep take up about two-thirds of those minutes. But what do you do with the rest?

How many of those 1,440 minutes do you waste flipping channels on TV or aimlessly surfing the Internet? How many are spent on selfish amusement? How many are wasted in anger? envy? self-pity? self-indulgence? How many minutes are used up in worrying over things you can't change? How many are wasted in pursuing sin? How many are eaten up by guilt? And how many do you spend doing absolutely nothing? How many of those 1,440 minutes do you spend talking with your family? How many are spent thanking God for His gifts? asking Him for His help? honoring Him in praise? How many are spent with an open Bible? How many minutes do you invest in working to kick a bad habit or develop a good one? How many do you use to admire God's creation and reflect on His greatness? How many are devoted to bearing someone else's burdens? How many do you spend trying to share Christ with your friends?

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (**Eph. 5:15-16**). There are 1,440 minutes in a day. You just spent one of them reading this. What will you do with the rest?"

- God knows we must work, He commanded it. (**1 Tim. 5:8**) God knows we must keep our house. God knows we must spend time with our children. And God even knows that we need time for recreation.
- The real question is, do we take/make time for God specifically? Working, raising your children and strengthening your relationship with your spouse is part of keeping God's commandments. All of those are absolute necessities for being a true Christian. The question again, is – do we make time for God specifically? To pray, praise, worship and glorify His holy name? And that involves a lot more than just time spent at the building!
- SPIRITUAL MAINTAINANCE TAKES TIME! Are you making it, taking it, giving it?

- “Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.” – Ben Franklin

**Discussion** (To be answered/discussed as a Group)

1. As the salt and light of the world, does “my” daily routine reflect a *God-first* mentality?
2. What are some specific areas you need to work on keeping *God first* as it relates to time?
3. For your own benefit, outline your daily routine. Does it appear God is first?
4. Every day we live must involve some activity to bring us closer to God and strengthen our relationship with Him. Come up with some practical/creative ways to make time for God on a daily basis. (Share as a group)
5. Why is making time for “private” worship so important?
6. Reflect on the words of the song “**Take Time To Be Holy**” (# 118)

*Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always and feed on His word.  
Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His  
blessings to seek.*

*Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
Abiding in Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; thy friends and thy conduct his likeness shall  
see.*

*Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul. Each thought and each motive beneath His  
control. Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shall be fitted for service  
above.*