

Going on to Maturity 9

A study about Christian maturity and what it looks like.

Having looked at money and family from the perspective of a maturing Christian, we now turn our attention to the very instrument of life.

Time

Take a moment to fill in the following Chart rounding the various time spent on each activity to the nearest half hour for the week just been

activity	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Week
Sleep								
Eat								
Work								
Family								
Hobby								
TV								
Prayer								
House								
Friends								
Other								
Total	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	168

Refer back to this chart and the Maturity principles from previous studies (i.e. not your own, love, sin etc) during the study to help you consider how we use time.

Read

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

1. Would the things in your week make it to this writers list as an activity “under heaven”?
2. All of these things are important in God. He wants us to eat, to spend time with friends, to work etc and yet this passage seems to call us to something more than just spending our time about the business of life. What is the writer getting at in verses 9-14.

Read

Matthew 6:16-34 and James 4:14

1. Do these passages apply to the use of time by the Christian?
2. Practically, what might that look like in your week?

Read

Genesis 1:3-5; 2:2,3; Exodus 20:8-11

1. What does the Sabbath law mean for you?
2. Is it important for Christians to uphold the Sabbath rest? How?
3. Where in your week is the principle of the Sabbath rest taking place?

(One way of considering the Sabbath rest is to consider rest as the root word of restore, and that the Sabbath is about restoring all that has got out of balance during the week. Therefore on the Sabbath it is about restoring physical energy through resting, it is about restoring relationships through spending time with people, family members, and friendships. It is about restoring the relationship with God through worship and prayer and instruction. Etc.)

Read

Col 4:5; Eph 5:14 -18

1. What does it mean, “Redeeming the time”?
2. Does this happen in your week?
3. What would this look like if you were to incorporate this in to your regular activity? Consider your involvement in instructing your children in the faith, involvement in Church and Mission projects, involvement in justice issues at work etc.

Finally

Every day we gobble up 24 hours and every week we consume 168 hours and most people complain that there is never enough of it! As Christians we are called to be smart about how we use our time for it belongs not to us, but to God. In this way our time at work actually belongs to him, as well as that in front of the TV. Pray about the use of our time and learn to invest your time and not just spend it.