

# Making The Most Of Every Opportunity

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*“<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:15-20*

## I. WHY MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY?

### 1. IT IS GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Three Servants*

### 2. GOD \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:15-17*

### 3. MY \_\_\_\_\_ DEPENDS ON IT

*“<sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:4-5*

### 4. THE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPEND ON IT

*“<sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup> And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” Romans 10:13-15*

### 5. IT IS KEY TO \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>8</sup> Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.” Ephesians 6:8*

### 6. IT IS VITAL TO MY SENSE OF \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>4</sup> Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. <sup>5</sup> For we are each responsible for our own conduct.” Galatians 6:4-5*

### 7. IT IS NECESSARY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.” Matthew 7:19-20*

## II. AREAS TO CONSIDER

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## WHY ARE THESE AREAS SO IMPORTANT?

### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40

### THE GREAT COMMISSION:

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

## III. HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

### 1. START EACH DAY TAKING ON THE MINDSET OF \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. <sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.” Philippians 2:3-8

### 2. PRAY FOR MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_ & THAT GOD WOULD \_\_\_\_\_ THOUGHOUT THE DAY

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. <sup>3</sup> Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. <sup>5</sup> Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive<sup>[a]</sup> so that you will have the right response for everyone.” Colossians 4:2-6

### 3. MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF \_\_\_\_\_

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

### KEY: DON'T \_\_\_\_\_ MY DAY

### 4. MINIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

### 5. KEEP MY EYES & EARS OPEN FOR \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.” Ephesians 5:16

### 6. KEEP MY SPIRITUAL EARS OPEN FOR \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:25

<sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. “ Ephesians 5:17

### 7. DO MY \_\_\_\_\_ AT WHATEVER I AM DOING

<sup>23</sup> Work enthusiastically at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is

Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24

Genesis 37, 39-45: Story of Joseph

## HOW?

### i. \_\_\_\_\_ IN WHATEVER I AM DOING

“... Work enthusiastically at whatever you do...”

### ii. WORK AS IF \_\_\_\_\_

“... as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people...”

### iii. DON'T BE AFRAID TO \_\_\_\_\_

“<sup>58</sup> Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”  
1 Corinthians 15:58

## 8. MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

“<sup>18</sup> Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18-20

“<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.” Colossians 3:14-15

## 9. \_\_\_\_\_ BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE MAJORITY OF OUTSIDE STIMULI

“<sup>16</sup> Wise people think before they act; fools don't—and even brag about their foolishness.” Proverbs 13:16

“<sup>19</sup> Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” James 1:19

## 10. IF I AM SEEKING FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM, EXPECT THAT GOD WILL DO \_\_\_\_\_

“<sup>12</sup> “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” John 14:12