



*Ps. 139:13 and 16 – For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them*

*James 4:14-15 – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time then vanishes. Instead you ought to say” If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that”*

*Eph 5:15-17 – Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

We, as God’s creation, are fully His. (*Ps. 139:13*) Everything we have is a gift from Him. This includes the very time we are granted in this life. God is the Owner and Giver of every minute of every hour of every day of our lives. God created us with a plan for our lives (*Ps. 139:16*) and calls us to live according to our vocations. We therefore should consider how we use the time He grants us in ways that please Him and work to His glory. This can include such things as working to support our families, volunteering time to support His mission (both within the church and within society) and serving our neighbor.

It is when we start to consider the time granted to us as our own rather than as a gift from our gracious Master, that our sinful nature steers us away from God’s plan. We may focus on one part of our vocation while neglecting another. We may neglect parts of our vocation for selfish pursuits. Or we may prioritize activities that we know are not God pleasing. Procrastination is another dangerous, selfish use of time, as it makes the foolish assumption that we have control over our days (*James 4:14-15*).

Whole sections of bookstores are filled with volumes dedicated to time management. While there is plenty of useful information and techniques for effectively organizing our days in these books, many of them still make the simple mistake of referring to “our time”. Perhaps the best “time management” tools we have are available to us in the church. A wise use of the time God grants us is time spent in worship, bible study, and daily devotions and prayer. Through each of these, God’s plan for us will reveal itself and ensure we are walking the path He has chosen for us with each of our vocations (*Eph. 5:15-17*).

Tim Dittloff, in his article “Teaching the Stewardship of Time in the Lutheran Congregation”, comes to the following conclusion:

“God has given us as gifts to one another in the church, home and society. He wants us to bless one another by fulfilling the roles He has given us to play in each of these spheres of life. But we can’t be there for our families, our churches and our neighbors unless we make intentional plans to manage the time God has given us to fulfill these roles. The church is the right place to learn how to do this more effectively.”

God grant us the wisdom to use the time given to us on earth in ways that fulfill our vocations.

To God be the Glory!