

Excerpts for contemplation, discussion and application from this week's issue of THE LOOKOUT.

Living in Kingdom Time

Time Management for Busy Christians (pages 3-5)

"Time often feels like a slave master, driving us to do more and more with fewer hours in which to do it."

"But what if time is not the fleeting, tyrannizing resource we often believe it is? What if we chose instead to view time as a gift from God? Wouldn't our goal become stewardship rather than management?"

- Do you think an obsession with time is unique to our age? Why, or why not?
- What changes might God make to your calendar?

"Beware of the subtle pressure from friends, neighbors, co-workers, the media, even the church, that you're missing out on life if you don't have a plan or a schedule for every hour of the day."

"Once you free yourself of the urgent and rest in the present, you may be surprised to discover what God has for you, as well as what he wants from you."

- Do you feel trapped by time, or blessed with it? Why?
- How does your stewardship of time affect your relationship with God?

My 'To-Do' List (pages 6 and 7)

"Asking God to help me plan out my list reminds me that my time belongs to the Lord."

"Apart from him we may be busy, but we can do nothing of true, eternal value."

- Think of a time when God interrupted your agenda with a 'divine appointment.'
- How could you alter your language to reflect a more God-centered view of time?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39).

- In what practical ways could these two commandments alter the way you spend time?

Time Management: Handle with Prayer (page 8 and 9)

"We want to do our part, but how do we decide what to do and what to leave out?"

"Time is a gift from God. It is a resource given equally to everyone."

- How does the way you spend your time reflect your priorities?

"Most time management methods involve some variation on three basic steps: planning, performing, and evaluating."

- What examples from Scripture can we follow in our stewardship of time? What contemporary examples can we follow?

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The Minute Waltz

MOST PEOPLE I KNOW struggle with time. Frequent complaints about time are: (a)not enough, (b)not nearly enough, and (c)none. Even for Christians, laying our calendars at the foot of the cross is a common difficulty. Services done for the Author of time, rather than being liberating, can sometimes seem like millstones attached to our watch chains.

If you asked your small group or Bible study some of the questions on this page, would you hear any strong opinions? Would anyone respond with a "no problem"?

Discussing this topic is a perfect opportunity to practice the Christian discipline of confession. Divide into groups of two or three, giving one another opportunity to speak about failures in this area. Remember: don't counsel— just listen, and then pray for one another.

Here's another way to do this: have each member write a sentence or two about their struggles, no names. Collect the notes and read them all together, praying for each one as you go.

May the Lord bless us to offer back to him what he has given us so freely.

Let us hear from you.

How is your small group encouraging and equipping one another? What have you been blessed with that might encourage others? We'd like to see "246" used as a forum for the exchange of ideas and a resource for small groups everywhere. Send us a few paragraphs, and a picture if you have one.

Let us know how THE LOOKOUT can help your group.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in

their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. (Acts 2:46).