

Time Management

I. INTRODUCTION

Time is a precious commodity
 Eph. 5:15-18 - making the most of your time
 Ps. 90

II. NEED FOR STUDY

culture says: Career is success

2 Problems:

A. Secular definition of success - robs people of emotional energy, anxiety
 Prov. 12:25

B. Christian community's awkward priority system - difficult to work out
 God has to be the center of every rung of my ladder

Verses:

1 Cor 9:24-27, 2 Tim 2:2-4, Ps 90:12, Eph 5:15-16, Mt 24:42f, Mk 13:33, Rom 13:11-12, 2 Cor 6:2, Col 4:5, 1 Pet 1:15-17, 1 Tim 4:7-8, Hos 10:12, Eccl 3:1-8, 4:2-3,7, Ps 1:2, 115:16-18

C. Example of Christ he had 24 hrs a day - he had time for people
 read: Tyranny of the Urgent - as he took his life from the Lord daily

III. PENTATHLON How to Balance Competing time demands - Sherman

A. Definition: athletic event with 5 major areas

Biblical Pentathlon

never perfect but hope for progress

5 events in our Xian pentathlon

2

1. PERSONAL - our own well-being - spiritual growth

2. FAMILY -

3. WORK in Christ's parables $\frac{2}{3}$ are work oriented

4. CHURCH - \approx each other

5. COMMUNITY - non Xian world

B. Contrast to culture:

Success—pour emotional energy into work and assume other areas will happen.

Success before God—"faithfully please God with the resources and responsibilities He's given you".¹ (Mt 25—talents)

C. Pentathlon model:

1. Organize your mental and emotional energy and develop an athletic passion to please Christ in 5 areas

2. Trade offs—if you add something to your schedule you must subtract something or decrease the overall quality of life *5 focal lenses*

3. Law of Entropy—things tend to disorder—'indwelling sin' resists 'abiding with Christ' and the resulting order He brings to our life (it prefers disorder—where wrong motives and values can remain hidden) *focus Christ's attention on areas*

4. Helps fight:

a. Influence of Culture -

b. Roadblocks from rebellion, procrastination, discouragement

c. Misconceptions from the church:

1) Education Fallacy - culture worships 'education'
must know and do

¹Doug Sherman, How to Balance Competing Time Demands, (Colorado Springs, Colorado, Navpress, 1989), p. 80

- 2) Attendance Fallacy - going to mtgs isn't enough
- 3) "Wishin' and Hopin' Fallacy - opp. as life as event to be pursued

IV. HOW TO APPLY THE PENTATHLON

A--ANALYZE GOD'S WORD -

P--PERSONAL INVENTORY -

P--PLAN STEPS - personal 'mission' statement
 • don't make too big a goal for 1st step Specific Measurable Attainable Compatible
 Reading

L--LIABLE TO OTHERS - accountability - willing to submit
 very few people stick & last

Y--YARDSTICK - a realistic approach - a helpful model

V. CONCLUSION/VISION

A. "Tyranny of the Urgent" - root of all sin is self-sufficiency
 essential to take time to pray -

- 1. Set aside one half day every ___ month(s) - need to do it
- 2. Use other tools -

B. Satan will sabotage - stock of machines get sights off big picture, from taking personal

- 1. Chaos -
- 2. Legalism/self effort -

- C. Vision--What is important to God? *Jet flight at Tree-top level - no perspective
Get back up to 40,000ft + see whole picture*
1. The Eternal over the Temporal
 - a. God (Ps 90:2, 93:2, 102:24-27) —
 - b. The Word of God (Ps 138:2, Mk 13:31, 1 Pet 1:25) —
 - c. People (1 Thes 4:16-17, 2 Thes 1:7-10) —
 2. The Spiritual over the Material *Mt. 6:21*
 3. Availability over Ability
- D. Develop Athletic Zeal to Please Him
- E. Do more by doing less--let the roots go down deep--quality of life is more important than quantity of activity