

YOUTH

August 2019

Going back to School to learn something New!

We all know that most parents are excited back to school day is close. We as parents have so much to do in the summer; finding people to watch the kids and buying groceries to feed those starving kids. We are excited to get a little peace and quiet from the constant arguing and protesting about how life isn't fair.

We will miss our children, but at the same time we know they will be learning something new, that hopefully they will use in their life. This summer I noticed something about my children that I didn't pay too much attention to earlier; They are impatient, and they don't know what waiting is. They want it NOW!

Back to
SCHOOL



I can do all things through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

There is no arguing that we live in a time in which most young people desire instant gratification.

If we must wait too long in a drive thru, we get mad. We get impatient while waiting on our food to come out of the microwave (when you're craving popcorn, three minutes seems like an excessively long time). Any amount of waiting time at a doctor's office or a

restaurant seems uncomfortable, boring and irksome.

At the same time, it seems that this generation wastes more time than past generations. That doesn't make sense, does it? If having to wait more than 90 seconds for a cheeseburger and milkshake is something that upsets us, we should hate wasting time.

Yet, the average America kid or teenager spends 94.2 hours per month on social

networks, phone, email, and watching television. That's almost four days a month wasted on things that probably have no significant importance.

So, they hate wasting time, yet they gladly give away four (maybe even more!) of 30 days a month. With that in mind, I think it's safe to say that we could all benefit from learning to manage our time better.

High school is the best time to learn good time management, and the beginning of a new school year is the perfect time to learn something new. If you want to graduate with grades above "D" this year, you must learn time management. If you learn good time management now, it will be easier to manage your time when you go to college, and more importantly when you graduate from college and get thrown back into the real world. And if you think time management isn't important in high school, just wait you'll think differently when adult life hits you. The bible teaches us a lot about using our time wisely and having patience.

Read Psalm 90:12

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

What does it mean to number your days? Think about it: While we may not know the exact number of days we have to live; we do know that we don't have forever to live on this

earth. So, keeping that in mind—that small number of days that make up our life—how do you feel about the way you spend your days? Do you plan your days? Are you a procrastinator? Or do you even think about how you spend your time, just letting whatever happens happen? Most importantly how does God fit into any of that?

Read Ephesians 5:15-17

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Have you ever taken a test that you just didn't study for? You knew it was happening, you knew when it was, you knew that you needed to study for it...and you just didn't? Maybe you didn't because "life" got in the way of studying, or because your priorities weren't exactly what they should have been. Either way, when this happens, there's a common prayer that happens: "God, give me wisdom for this test!"

Did you ever think that maybe God already gave you wisdom for the test? You know: that test that you knew about -the one where you knew what to study, but just didn't, even though you had the time and resources. A wise student would have used the time God gave and the brain God gave to you to study!

This verse says to be careful to live as wise. How does that relate to time management? More than you might think. Look at it this way: how you spend your hours adds up to how you spend your days. How you spend your days adds up to how you spend your life. So, if you're spending your days wasting time and avoiding what you need to do, then you are basically avoiding life and, worse, wasting it makes life harder too! That is not wise.

This verse also urges us to "make the most of every opportunity...do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is." Do you know the best way to understand what the Lord's will is? By spending time with Him! By praying and reading the Bible. The more you are spending time with Him, the easier it will be to make the most of every opportunity.

Read James 4:14

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Your whole life—the one you're so concerned about, the one filled with good and bad and happy and sad—is but a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. In other words, you blink and it's gone. So why not make the absolute most of it? This reminds me of the country songs, "Don't Blink, by Kenny Chesney" and "Your going to miss this, by Trace Adkins."

There's this idea that to enjoy life, you need to be a free spirit who is spontaneous and goes with the flow, never planning anything. Sure, many people choose to live that way. But the bottom line is this: if you want to make the most out of your life, you can only do that by learning to manage time.

Whether or not you decide to take charge of your time, or let it take charge of you, it's going to pass you by anyway. Monday-Friday you are going to go to class, get homework, have exams, write papers. School is going to happen regardless of whether you manage your time or not. But if you want to make the most of the time you have, and you want to live them the way the Bible says you should, managing your time in a wise way is a must. So how do you do that?

Here are three simple ways to get the most out of your time.

1. Make God your number one Priority.

No matter how busy you get, no matter how much you must do, no matter what, spending time with God needs to be your number one priority. If that means you need to get up earlier, then wake up earlier. If that means you need to sacrifice something extra, then so be it. This is one choice you will not regret making.

2. Prioritize the things in your life.

No matter how you may feel, school is a priority right now. That means that for the

school year, classes, tests, papers, and projects come before late night movies and weekends spent doing nothing with your friends. One of the best ways to remember your priorities is to get a planner or a calendar and write down when things are due, when you need to study, etc.

3. Hold yourself accountable.

After you know what your schedule should be, pray over it. Ask God to help you achieve all you need to achieve in the time that you need to achieve it. Ask Him to help you manage your time better. Then, find someone who will hold you accountable to this. Maybe that's someone here at the church like your mentor, or maybe it's another person who's also trying to manage their time better. Either way, that person asking how you're doing with your time can be a great motivator! Another way to hold yourself accountable is to write these verses down—the ones that talk about how we should spend our days—and put them somewhere you can see them. After all, spending hours on Instagram, Facebook or Netflix isn't really enjoyable when you're looking

The 4th of July

The waterslide was a success. At first my heart dropped. The original waterslide was 18 feet tall and the kids really enjoyed it, but as the owners blew the slide up, they discovered a hole. By God's grace, they also had a cancellation on a 22ft slide and offered that slide to our youth for the same price! The children had a great time on this slide, corkscrew and all. The food was awesome; of course, it always is when John Lowe grills... All agreed that ice cream (although I didn't get to taste it, I was too busy watching the youth slide). I am so thrilled to work and be part of a church family that is so loving and caring.

at a verse that reminds you of how short your life is.

You will learn a lot of new things this school year, and I hope that time management is one of those things. It isn't just a good skill to have; it's also a step in the direction of living how God has called us to live. You only live once, and you only live for a short time. There are going to be things you must do, there are going to be things you want to do, and there are going to be things that God calls you to do. It can seem like a lot and can pile up fast. If you're prepared by having the right mindset (that knows God has blessed, you with this life and you want to make the most of it that you can) this year will be so much better for you.

School is only part of your life. If you want to make the most of it, learning to manage your time is one of the best places to start, and God is the best one to help you with that. Ask Him to help you this year, He loves you more than anything and wants to see you succeed with the life He has blessed you with.

Upcoming Events

- August 3rd – Back to School Event
- September 28-29- Patterson Farm/Sleep Over