

IN SEASON | sermon series

Be in the Moment

“Tell everyone God’s message. Be ready at all times to do whatever is needed.”
2 Timothy 4:2 ERVⁱ

To “be in the moment” sounds like a very worldly humanistic slogan.

But it is a very Biblical truth!

We only get a designated time in this life, with far too precious opportunities to accomplish something that will long live after we are gone.

When scripture speaks of time, the meaning will carry a chronological value or an experiential value. One speaks of *quantity* of time – the other relates to *quality* of time.

Jesus said as recorded by Mark (1:14-15), *“The **time** promised by God has come at last!” he announced. ‘The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!’”*

In the following passage Jesus uses the term for quality of time, meaning, this is a special time that we are in!

This is a time to capture, to live in the moment (or time) and to be. *God* has appointed this time for us all!

CS Lewis suggested that God wants us to focus on two parts of our experience.

The first is our eternity. But if this is our only focus, we may never do any good on earth.

That’s why we need the second part of our experience - *our present*. This is the time we’ve been given.

When we balance our eternal destiny and our present, it gives us a burden for people in our world and then to speak graciously into their hearts.

This is perhaps what Paul meant by “*make the most of every opportunity*” in Ephesians 5:16.

Paul gave us three ways to *be in the moment* – this special time we’re living in (NLT).

Colossians 4:5-6 NIV

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

There are so many ways we can escape the calling to embrace each moment as a moment of purpose – especially when it relates to demonstrating our faith in Jesus Christ.

“Be **WISE** in the way you act toward outsiders (unbelievers)”

The call for discreet behavior in an unbelieving society, may reflect the fact that claims of inappropriate behavior on the part of Christians were being made public across local Roman provinces.

The Colossian Christians were cautioned to live in the wisdom of the Lord so that they didn’t give any credibility to the lies of slanderous accusations.

Be sure of this, the enemy is looking for that one misstep, one misguided word, or unintended act to show the world that believers in Jesus are not credible witnesses.

So, be wise!

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, “*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*” (Philippians 4:8)

When in doubt,

- Shoot for truth, honor, rightness, purity, spiritually admirable.
- Whatever is within the highest standards of God's grace!

This is wise counsel for wise living!

Also,

“Make THE MOST of every opportunity”!

Paul wrote to Ephesus these words, *“Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”* (Ephesians 5:16-17).

If you had a need to settle a debt that was being sent to a collection agency in a few days, you wouldn't waste time getting the needed funds together.

I had a situation years ago where I needed to find money to payoff a tax debt to the IRS. I had a band saw that was worth far more than what I needed but I sold it cheap to get fast cash. I did what it took to manage the moment at hand.

One commentary said that what is meant by “make the most of every opportunity” was to make the best possible use of all circumstances like prudent merchants and not waste opportunities as they present themselves. ⁱⁱ

Many of our friends, family, acquaintances or neighbors are living in a mountain of sin unable to reconcile debt on their own.

Colossians 1:19-20

“For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself.”

2 Corinthians 5:16

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.”

This is what the Lord wants us to do.

Take advantage of the time we have by living wisely, promoting the life of Christ through our testimony of word and example.

Paul concluded with this challenge...

“Let your **CONVERSATION** be gracious and seasoned with salt”

Gracious conversation is marked by kindness and courtesy, and is characterized by generosity of spirit revealing the good nature of God’s love.

Seasoned with salt may mean that Christian conversation is to be marked by purity and wholesomeness.

Some, however, understand "salt" in the sense of that which gives distinctive taste or flavor suitable for the individual listener.

Conversation must be appropriate for each person to whom we speak.

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be gracious and attractive (or winsome) so that you will have the right response for everyone.” **Colossians 4:5-6**

Because everyone needs the Lord!

ⁱ All scriptures will be utilizing the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise indicated.

ⁱⁱ Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament - Ephesians 5:16, Copyright 2004. From Biblegateway.com