

WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND ?

Int.

1. Aim: To show that if we will but use what we have we will be better !
2. Exodus 4:1-5
 - a. Moses was not confident
 - b. God assured him that He was with him in this task !
3. Other examples of doing much with what they had in their hand
 - a. Shamgar - Ox goad - 600 Philistines - Judges 3:31
 - b. David - Sling - Goliath - 1 Sam. 17:50
 - c. Poor Widow - two mites - Luke 21:1-4
 - d. Boy - lunch 5 barley loaves and 2 fish - fed 5,000 - John 6:9
4. We have much in our hand, let's see what it is and how to use it !

Discussion

I. YOUR LIFE

- A. We must account for the way we use our life
- B. Rom. 14:12
- C. We have a choice
 1. All have the opportunity to be a Christian
 2. We can do what we like, but remember - Gal. 6:7
- D. Examples
 1. Prodigal son - Lk. 15
 2. Judas - Matt.
 3. Timothy - II Tim. 1:5

- E. Life is like a boomerang. What we throw out will come back later !
1. II Tim. 4:14 - Alexander
 2. II Tim. 4:11 - Mark
- F. Your life is in your hand and you have the task of deciding what to do with it.
1. Blessing to God and man
 2. Or a curse to all

II. TIME

- A. 168 Hours in a Week
1. Work = 50 hours
 2. Sleep = 56 hours
 3. Eat = 10 hours
 4. Recreation = 34 hours
 5. Miscellaneous = 18 hours
- B. Eph. 5:15-16 = redeeming your time
1. Col. 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."
 2. Redeeming = to buy up, i.e. ransom; figuratively, to rescue from loss (improve opportunity):--redeem.
 3. You cannot kill time, you cannot store time, all you can do is use it !
- C. "A time to be born and a time to die." Eccl. 3:2
1. Between these we have life
 2. This is in our hand now and we must use it wisely
- D. Illustration - Story of \$86,400 a day

III. INFLUENCE

A. Good or Bad

1. We can bless or harm
2. We have more influence on more people than we realize !

B. Gal. 5:7-9

1. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" v. 9
2. 1 Pet. 3:1-2

C. We cannot live without making some kind of influence

1. As the blossom cannot tell what becomes of its odor, no man can tell what becomes of his influence.
2. Others are affected by what I am and say and do.
3. "...what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." 1 Pet. 3:11

D. Our influence will go with us into eternity - Rev. 14:13

IV. TALENTS

A. Use them and they will increase - Matt. 25:24-30

1. Too many are saying we have no talent or ability
2. The fish in Mammoth cave are blind
3. The same fish outside the cave can see

B. We must use whatever talents we have

1. Teach - Visit
2. Example - Friendly
3. Kind

C. Titus 3:5 "be careful to maintain good works."

V. MONEY

- A. We have a responsibility to use it correctly
 - 1. Stewardship = manager
 - 2. Must not waste our money
 - 3. Should live within our income
 - 4. Pay debts
 - 5. Provide for our family
- B. We have a responsibility to give God his part
 - 1. 1 Cor. 16:2
 - 2. What if God should prosper us according to our giving ?

VI. YOUR SOUL AND OTHERS

- A. Acts 2:40 - save yourself
- B. The soul is the most valuable thing in the world, and every person has a soul that needs saving - Matt. 16:26

Conclusion

- 1. Eccl. 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
- 2. What is that in your hand ?
 - a. Life
 - b. Time
 - c. Influence
 - d. Talents
 - e. Money

f. Soul

3. Your soul is in your hand?
 - a. You can save yourself by obeying the gospel
 - b. You can loose your soul by failing to do anything
 - c. Your future lies in your hand
 - d. Deal wisely with it
4. When Moses threw the rod on the ground it became a dangerous serpent.
5. When we throw our opportunities to obey and live for God, then it becomes dangerous to the salvation of our soul.
6. What will you do with what you have in your hands ?

Time - \$86,400 a Day

"If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400 that carried no balance from day to day, allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and finally, every morning cancelled whatever part of this amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do?"

"Draw out every cent -- of course.!"

"Well you have such a bank and its name is 'Time'. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off - as lost - whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

"It carries no balances. It allows no overdrafts. Each day the bank named 'time' opens a new account with you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow.

"You must live in the present - - on today's deposits. Invest it so that you can get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success.

Did you every try to conceive of time - - time through all eternity - - the timelessness of time - - time without beginning and without end.

Yes, time is aplenty! Yet we have so little of it. Our entrance and our exit on the stage of passing time is short. And when we approach that inevitable hour, it's too late to recover lost time or to try things over again, although we may yearn in vain for another chance.

The Turnpike of success doesn't run through a magic land where men are credited with more time. Each and every one of us is allotted an equal 86,400 seconds a day. Our success depends upon how we invest those seconds.

Let's approach the future with a firm resolution to use fully today's deposits and keep this little thought in mind:

Time goes, you say

Ah, No Alas!

Time stays, WE GO !