

## TELEVISION

*“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph.5:16)*

TIME. The most precious thing a Christian can possess. There are 24 hours in a day, or 1440 minutes, or 86,400 seconds.

The psalmist said, “...*teach us to number our days,...*” (Ps. 90:12)

James said, “...*For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away.*” (James 4:14)

At funerals in years gone by, an hourglass would be placed on the casket to remind the living that their time, too, was short. That hourglass does not need to be on the casket of the dead, but in the heart of every living man. The word “redeem” in Eph. 5:16 means to “buy back”. Every activity wants to purchase our time and we are commanded to buy it back. If we are to give our time to God, we will have to strive to give it.

Acts 17:21 says: “*(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.)*”

So time, like money, is to be spent.

Each of us gets 24 precious bills each day to spend. You cannot save them. They disappear at the end of the day. Our speed of Christian growth is determined by what we spend our time on.

Franklin Field said, “The great dividing line between success and failure is five words – ‘I did not have time’.”

Did you pray today? - No, I did not have time.  
Did you witness today? - No, I did not have time.  
Did you read your Bible today? - No, I did not have time.

Replace the answer - I did not make time.

The great saints of old: Paul, Spurgeon, Moody, Finney, Sunday, Whitefield, etc., all had the same number of hours per day you do. They used their time wisely.

### **YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT TO!**

Jesus called His followers disciples. Disciple means “disciplined one”. If we are going to do much for God we will have to discipline our time.

## **SCHEDULED PRAYER TIME**

You must make time. Daniel prayed three times a day. He spent his time on prayer. When the disciples arose, they knew where to find Jesus. He was already at His prayer place. Make an appointment with God and keep it!

## **SCHEDULED BIBLE TIME**

Josh. 7:8 says: *“O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!”*

The urgent cries out to take the place of the important. Don’t let the trivial thing steal the time you are to walk with God. Your Bible will not cry out for attention.

## **SCHEDULED SOULWINNING**

Choose a time weekly to witness for the Lord outside of your daily opportunities and stick with it.

## **AVOID TIME WASTERS**

Avoid foolish people that seem to waste your time. Avoid the greatest time waster in our nation - the television.

TV really stands for Testing Virtue. The average person spends 30 hours, 38 minutes per week (10 years of their life!) wasted in front of that box.

Robert Murray McCheyne, who shook Scotland, had a ministry that lasted only seven years. David Brainard, missionary to the American Indians had a ministry of less than 10 years.

Ps. 101:3 says: *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”*

Eph. 5:10 says: *“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”*

Ezek. 16:49 says: *“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*

TV promotes idleness. Idleness was one of the sins mentioned that led Sodom into destruction.

Some temptations tempt the busy man.  
All temptations tempt the idle man.

Spurgeon said: “If the devil can catch an idle man, he will set him to work, find him tools, and before long, pay him wages.”

The idle are always in a hurry and a mess, and by neglecting to work in the proper time, they always have a lot to do.

We live in an amusement society. “Muse” means “to think”. “A” means “without”. So, “amuse” means “no think”.

Christians today know more about TV than the Bible. They know which show is on, what channel, at what time, and they even know the characters’ names. Yet they do not have time to memorize the books of the Bible in order.

## **INCREASED TV**

The devil wants more and more time wasted. TV used to have one or two channels; then came along cablevision, HBO, and satellite. There are so many options now to waste time.

The average Dad in our nation plops in front of the TV from the time he is home from work until 10:30 p.m., while the wife and children starve for a godly leader, example, and friend.

Television has turned the family circle into the family semi-circle.

Television teaches children that grown-ups tell lies for money.

FCC Commissioner Nicholas Johnson charges that major TV network programs are designed to “keep you stupid, so you will watch more.” The networks, he says, cultivate ignorance to keep society as it is. Johnson told a conference “that getting 100 million people to watch westerns, soap operas, and other prime-time junk is a political achievement that ranks with the Roman circus.”

Is it not interesting that the most popular TV night is Sunday (to tempt people to miss church) and the second most popular night is Thursday night (when most churches have soulwinning).

## **PRIME-TIME SHOWS**

They are geared to the unsaved world. If the unsaved like it, it must be wrong for the Christian.

Would it be wrong for two teenagers to be allowed into your home to commit fornication in your living room? What is the difference, when bedroom scenes are allowed into the living room through TV? It is perversion.

## **CONTROL**

You may say, “I can control it.” How did you do last month? Was there anything you watched that Jesus would not have? Are you addicted? Try an experiment that other people have - give it up for 30 days!

## **NO CONTROL**

A young married Bible college student had determined never to buy a TV. He could not control it as a teen and preferred not to have one. One Christmas his in-laws gave he and his wife one. He tried to act thankful but inside did not like the TV. After the relatives left he put it in the closet. The relatives kept dropping by unexpected, so he and his wife decided to keep the TV out to show appreciation and not to offend the in-laws. Soon he began watching it. It took more and more of his time - until he found himself watching it on soulwinning night. He got so angry with himself that he threw the TV down, breaking it into a million pieces. The next day the father-in-law dropped in and noticed the TV was missing. Upon inquiry, the son-in-law told the truth about how he had smashed the TV. The father-in-law was so irate; that he even questioned his daughter's safety with his son-in-law. The Bible college student called a friend for counsel to ask what to do. He was told to try to get the father-in-law's pastor to calm him down. He said, "That is the problem. He is the pastor." How sad. Most people cannot control a TV. Better to not have one and be honest about it than to have one uncontrolled.

## **TV's GOOD PARTS?**

1. Is it educational? It can be, but most educational materials could be found in libraries and researched at your convenience.
2. Is it a diversion? TV from time to time can offer some diversion. An occasional ball game, documentary, or news may be helpful.

## **THE 23rd CHANNEL**

The TV is my Shepherd,  
My spiritual growth shall want.  
It maketh me to sit down and do nothing for its name sake.  
It requireth all of my spare time.  
It keepeth me from doing my duty as a Christian, because it presenteth so many good shows that I must see.  
It restoreth my knowledge of the things of the world,  
And keepeth me in the paths of failing to attend the evening services and doing nothing for the kingdom of God.  
Yea, though I live to be 100, I will keep viewing my TV as long as it will work, for it is my closest companion; its sounds and pictures comfort me.  
It presenteth entertainment before me and keepeth me from doing important things with my family.  
It fills my head with ideas that differ from the Word of God.  
Surely no good thing will come out of my life because of so many wasted hours.  
And I will dwell in the house of remorse forever.

## **THE PROBLEM**

Most of the time when you watch one TV show you are tempted to watch the next and all the dancing/rock music commercials in between.

## **SOLUTION**

1. Control it or get rid of it.
2. Replace TV time with family fun, talks, book reading, family altar, and exercising.
3. Use the attached Ten Questions to tape to your TV dial to help curb the addiction.

**--REDEEM THE TIME--**

## **TEN QUESTIONS**

1. Did I plan to watch it?
2. Does it glorify God?
3. Does its purpose please God?
4. Does it have any nudity in it?
5. Does it have any shady language or push humanistic philosophies?
6. Who are the heroes?
7. Are you going to watch all the commercials?
8. Would you watch it if Jesus were there?
9. Is there something better to do?
10. Do you have a hard time turning com-promising shows off?



## REVIEW TELEVISION - STEP 33

1. Define redeem: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Our speed of Christian growth is determined by what we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Quote Franklin Field's saying: " \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. YOU DO WHAT \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name three activities a Christian should schedule:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Make an \_\_\_\_\_ with God and keep it.
7. The average person spends \_\_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per week viewing TV.
8. Some temptations tempt the \_\_\_\_\_ man.  
All temptations tempt the \_\_\_\_\_ man.
9. Describe tricks the devil uses to increase TV time: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What are the most popular TV nights?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is the prime-time shows geared to? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Can you control your TV? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Can you control commercials? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is wrong with the average commercial? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_