

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Time For All Things"

By Pastor Lyn Linde, First United Methodist Church, Norton

When it comes to using time wisely, we Christians and others fail miserably. I may be talking only about myself, but somehow I seriously doubt it. I can have my day planned in advance of arriving at the office, only to have my plans dashed by an alarming phone call or a stream of folks filtering through my office in need of assistance, whether spiritual, physical or otherwise. Before I realize it, the morning is gone and I have nothing to show for the use of my time. Have you ever had one of those days, weeks, months or years?

Scripture tells us there is a time for all things if you were to read Ecclesiastes Chapter three. Instead, I leave the reading of that passage to your own free time. There are ten affirmations for Christian use of time to share with you today.

The First of affirmation is: I HAVE ONLY ONE THING TO DO. Luke 10:41-42-"The Master said: Martha, Dear Martha, you are fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it-it is the main course, and won't be taken from her" We are on holy assignment. Life's true effectiveness does not result from getting God to help us, rather our seeking God's guidance and direction for our lives.

The Second Affirmation is: I HAVE AS MUCH TIME AS ANYONE. Philippians 4:19 My God shall supply all you need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Our Christian faith teaches that God has a plan for our affairs. If then we believe that He has something in mind for us, loves us, and knows what is

best for us, this must follow-he is not likely to give us an overload.

The Third Affirmation is: I WILL SET ASIDE MOMENTS TO BE ALONE WITH MY LORD. Matthew 14:23 reminds us that even Jesus took time to get away from the crowds to renew His strength. We should do the same.

The Fourth Affirmation is: I WILL WELCOME MY LORD TO MY SUBCONSCIOUS. II Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that we are

made new in Christ so it would stand to reason that we invite him into our thoughts daily.

The Fifth Affirmation is: I PLAN FOR THE FUTURE BUT I ENJOY TODAY. Matthew 6:34 reminds us that even God looks out for the birds of the air and the flowers that grow. Allowing Him to rule our lives frees us to enjoy life.

The sixth Affirmation is: I DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO IT ALL. Luke 5:15-16 "And great multitudes

came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew into the wilderness, and prayed." Even the Son of God knew his task was huge and that he could not continue without renewing his personal strength. Like affirmation five, God's plan for us includes down time to recognize that we are not all energizer bunnies.

The seventh Affirmation is: I WILL MAKE FRIENDS WITH DIVINE INTERRUPTIONS. Matthew 9:19-22 reminds us of Jesus' faithfulness to his calling when he paused in a crowd to acknowledge a woman in need. Her faith healed her and our faith in Jesus can heal us too.

The eighth Affirmation is: I WILL BE COURTEOUS OF OTHER'S TIME. Luke 6:31 "Treat others just as you wish them to treat you." God has no favorites in his kingdom. God loves each one of us alike. To live in his love is to live by the rule behind the Golden rule.

The ninth Affirmation is: I WILL LIVE BY THE SECRETS OF CHRISTIAN JOY. John 15:11 "These things have I spoken to you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Jesus came to do many things for humankind, the greatest of which is to show his unending love. In his love there is joy for all who believe.

The tenth Affirmation for Christian Use of Time: ALL MY TIME BELONGS TO GOD. I Corinthians 10:31

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

How will you spend your time?

Sweeter Than Honey

Oh, how many of us love sweets! Birthdays bring cakes frosted with clouds of icing, topped with scoops of ice cream. Of course, sometimes we enjoy them too much and pay weighty consequences....

In Psalm 119:103 we read, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Don't pass up on the richness of God's love and the sweetness of His peace. Indulge your spirit in God's house of worship. Faith in Him will satisfy you without any side effects!

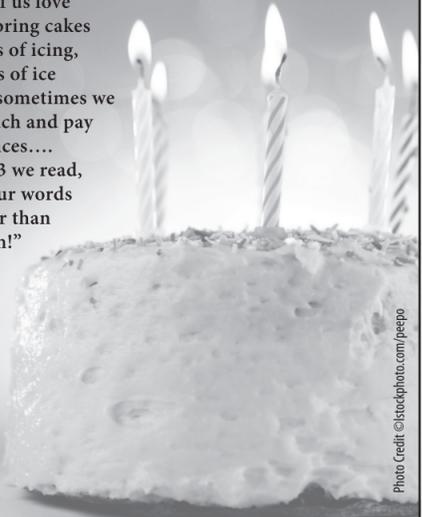


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Weekly Scripture Reading

Luke 9:1-17	Luke 9:18-36	Luke 9:37-62	Acts 9:1-25	Acts 9:26-43	Acts 10:1-23	Acts 10:24-48
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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