

The Rabbi's Study:

Word Taught in a Jewish Way

REDEEMING TIME By Messianic Rabbi ~~Michael~~ Koniuchowsky

In Ephesians 5:16 the Lord Yeshua instructs us to redeem time because the days that we live in are evil. Unfortunately, children of **Yah** do not know how to redeem time, unless they are personally taught by the Lord. Redeeming time is not something we do naturally. In verse 15, we are told that we are foolish children or stupid children if we do not let the Lord instruct us on how to redeem time. Since our physical life is so short, we need to be wise concerning His personally selected will for our life. We need the wisdom of Solomon in our believing life. Sadly most born-again saints do not have a clue about redeeming time.

Aside from using our time in a Godly way, there are several incorrect ways to handle our time:

1. **Wasting Time:** Most of us are very good at this. Simply stated, we who know **Yah's** will and **ah's** call, may find ourselves continually postponing them. We just refuse to get around to His will, and instead enact our own will regularly (Prov. 26:16).

2. **Passing Time:** This is what we do when we are waiting for something better to come along. Usually, this other "better thing or situation" never comes. When it does come, we find that the thing or situation is worse than what we already had. I call this the classic "green grass syndrome."

3. **Making Time:** Several of us who love **ah**, spend far too much time with losers. A loser, by Biblical standards, is defined as anyone who is unsaved and who continually rejects the gospel. Their ungodly character and chatter will expose you to unclean demonic spirits. Drinking, cursing, drugs, and illicit sex is the devil's way to dissipate the little precious time we have on the earth to serve **Yah** (Eph 5:18, 2 Cor 6:15-20). Making time is an oxymoron for the Bible believer. Making time is for losers.

4. **Doing Time:** This unwise expenditure of

time is a direct result of "making time." If you foolishly "make time," you will wind up doing time. Doing time is not limited to being physically behind bars, and locked in a jail cell, although that is a possibility. In the realm of the Spirit, anyone who is in bondage to a particular sin, is locked in a spiritual prison cell with the devil. The devil becomes your cell mate. You and I do not need to be doing time with the enemy (John 8:34).

5. **Spending Time:** Proverbs 18:24 clearly reminds us that Yeshua, our risen Messiah is the only true friend we have, who will stick closer than a brother. Although our brothers and sisters in the Lord are a precious gift to us, as well as being part of a network of support, they must never be given more time by us than the Lord Himself. When you and I spend more time with other believers than we do with **Yah**, we are "spending time." While spending time is not evil in itself, lack of self control in this misappropriation of time, can quickly lead to idolatry. Biblical idolatry is anything in your life that comes first before your Savior.

6. **Redeeming Time:** Only spiritually sensitive and mature believers redeem time. When believers decrease their "busy at work" time and increase the time spent in fellowship with **Yah** they receive a special reward. This reward is the gift of "redeemed time." No created being in the world, other than Bible believers, have been given the gift by **Yah** of redeemed time.

Redeem, by definition, means to buy back something or someone that was previously ours. If we obey **Yah** in Spirit and in truth, He will allow us to "buy back" time. When we become so enamored with His glorious and radiant presence, time will be returned to us. Once time is returned to us, we have been released from the limitations and constraints that it places on us. To be with the Lord on earth or in heaven becomes

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our overriding priority and goal.

I believe that when we reach this level of relationship with *Yah*, the natural differences between earth and heaven begin to disintegrate. Death comes to mean a great opportunity to see the face of the One whose voice has become a daily companion.

Only those who desire such a close walk with *Yah*, will receive this gift. In my own walk with the Lord, I have learned that the gift of "redeemed time" is a great blessing. Activities such as speaking the Word, singing the Word, meditating on the Word, and memorizing the Word may take time away from other activities. However, *Yah* multiplies the time back to us many times over when we diligently seek Him with a sincere heart.

In the course of buying back our time, we become more intimate with the Lord. The process, therefore, becomes a blessed and anointed circle, in which we minister to the Lord and He ministers back to us. We become increasingly thankful for our salvation. We become increasingly willing

to submit our lifestyle to His Lordship.

Yesterday is in the tomb. Tomorrow is in the womb. Today, you and I need to buy back some time (2 Cor. 6:1-2). As we draw closer to the Lord, the words of 2 Peter 1:10-11 will ring true in our hearts, "...for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah."

If you would like to receive Yeshua as your personal Messiah, pray the following prayer:

"Dear God, I know that Yeshua is Your Son and that He died on the execution stake and was raised from the dead. Because I have sinned and need forgiveness, I ask Yeshua to come into my heart. I am willing to change the direction of my life by acknowledging Yeshua as my Lord and Savior, and by turning away from my sins. Thank You for giving me forgiveness, and eternal life. In Yeshua's name, amen."

Use this prayer if it expresses your feelings, or pray a similar prayer in your own words, committing your life to Yeshua and asking Him for His gift of eternal life. *If you write to us we will gladly send you a Bible. •*