

## “Routine”

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by Wayne Goff

“**Routine**: a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program” (*New Oxford American Dictionaries*). Summer is often a period of *organized chaos* at best; and just *plain chaos* at worst. Especially is this true if you have school-aged children at home. School is out, summer activities, vacation time, and other recreation take their toll on anything similar to a routine. But once the fall session of school is in, then families and society fall back into their *regular routine* of activities. This is good because we are creatures of habit, and habits form a natural, comfortable routine in our lives.

Christians and the Lord’s church also have their *routine*. Do not forsake the assembling of the saints together (Heb. 10:25). Study to show yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). Be faithful unto death in order to receive your crown of life (Rev. 2:10). -- All of these things require careful use of one’s time, energies, and talents. “*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:15-17).

To walk “*circumspectly*” is to live your life *carefully, diligently, accurately*. Christians realize they are swiftly headed to eternal judgment where they will give an account of their time here upon the earth (2 Cor. 5:10). So they “*redeem*” their time by taking advantage of their opportunities. People of the world make no provisions for eternity. They live only for today.

Jeremiah bemoaned Judah’s **lost opportunities** in life with these words: “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!*” (Jer. 8:20). What an awful fate for the ill-prepared who never thought it would happen to them. Are you prepared for eternity? Do you live your life carefully, taking advantage of your opportunities? One day God will answer that question for you.

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