

Stewardship of Our Time

by Wane Goff

The apostle Paul instructs to “redeem the time because the days are evil,” **Eph. 5:16**. In the context of Ephesians 5 Paul is warning Christians of the importance of resisting having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, and of waking up spiritually to be aware of what’s going on morally in the evil world. From that standpoint, nothing has changed in the last two thousand years!

Time (KAIROS)

But notice the word “time” in the verse above. It is the Greek word **kairos** which has reference to a *particular, or specific* time. So Paul has in mind the idea of *today, now, immediately* using your time wisely, efficiently, and productively! Satan is always trying to lure us away from God, the church and living righteously. Be aware of that and redeem your time.

Another illustrative example of this particular Greek word is **Matthew 16:2-3** where Jesus rebukes the Jews for being able to discern the weather by the signs in the sky, but cannot discern the moral decline of the nation by the signs of their times!

*“He answered and said to them, ‘When it is evening you say, “It will be fair weather, for the sky is red”; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the **times**.”*

John the Baptist had previously warned of the horribly immoral state of the country when he said during his ministry “And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees...” (**Matt. 3:10**). In a few short years the nation of Israel was completely destroyed because they did not know how bad things were in *that specific time*.

This Greek word is also translated “season(s)” because it is *the specific time* of harvest (**Matt. 21:41, 45; Mk. 11:13; 12:2; Lk. 13:1; Acts 14:17**; etc.).

Sadly, this is the word that Felix used when he told Paul “...when I have **a convenient time** I will call for you” (**Acts 24:25**). So when, Mr. Felix, is that convenient, specific time to obey?

For those interested, here are a few more interesting references for this Greek word, **Acts 17:26; Rom. 3:26; 5:6; 8:18; 11:5; 13:11; 2 Cor. 6:2; Gal. 6:9** “due season;” **2 Tim. 3:1; 4:3**; etc.

Time (CHRONOS)

Another Greek word which is translated “time” is the word **chronos** — you may recognize the English words which come from this Greek word — chronos, chronology, chronological — all of which help you to understand that this particular Greek word of time has reference to the *succession of time, time in its proper order, and time contemplated as such*. This word appears in **Matthew 25:19** where the master of certain servants came “after a long time” (the passing of time). You can also see this interesting Greek word in its context in **Luke 4:5; 8:27; John 5:6; Acts 1:6-7; 1:21; 7:17; 14:3; 15:33; 17:30; Gal. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:1; 2 Tim. 1:9**; etc. It is not that the word itself is so amazing, but when you consider the message in light of *the passing of time*, it helps you appreciate what is being said better.

Let me finish this article with **Hebrews 11:32**, “And what more shall I say? For the **time** would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:” Yes, with the limitations of space, “time will fail me, too!”