

Questions about your commitments from Tim Challies

From the book, Do More Better, page 40.

1. Are these the right and best things for me to be doing?
2. Do these things fit my mission [God's priorities for your time]?
3. Are there things I can do in this area that no one else can do?
4. Am I especially gifted or talented in this area?
5. Do I bring unique value to this?
6. Is there someone who can do this better than I can?

Questions for reviewing areas of responsibility in an annual retreat from Carolyn Mahaney

From http://www.girltalkhome.com/files/personal_retreat.pdf

Carolyn suggests asking these questions about the following areas of responsibility: your personal holiness, your service at church, fellowshiping with believers, evangelizing unbelievers, loving your family, attending to your work, caring for your physical health.

1. Am I keeping the Gospel personally?
2. Am I daily "preaching the Gospel to myself?"
3. What is my present involvement with each priority?
4. Given my present season, am I giving the right amount of time, energy, and attention to each priority?
5. Is my present investment into each priority bringing glory to God?
6. Is there anything about my present investment into each priority that is not bringing glory to God and thus needs to change?
7. What are the best opportunities that this season of my life offers? Am I "buying up," "rescuing from loss," and "improving" these opportunities?
8. Are there any "good" activities or "noble" endeavors in which I am presently involved that are hindering my investment into priority relationships?
9. Why am I involved in this particular activity or endeavor? Is it to glorify God or is it for selfish purposes?
10. Is there anything that I am doing presently that needs to be postponed until another season?
11. Will what I am sowing in this season reap a good harvest in the next year?
12. Am I bearing fruit in the most important areas in this season of my life?

Core Seminars – Christian Discipleship

Stewardship

Week 9



Stewarding Our Time

I. INTRODUCTION

"The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away." – Psalm 90:10

Three purposes our world sees for time:

1. Fun
2. Accomplishment
3. Survival

II. THE MASTER

Who owns your time?

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31

"What do you have that you did not receive?" – 1 Corinthians 4:7

What are some implications of that fact, that God owns your time?

III. THE MISSION

Discover and display the goodness and glory of God.

IV. THE GROUND RULES

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” – Ephesians 5:15-16

1. Obey the master.

You’re a foot soldier, not the general.

Each responsibility God has given you by virtue of your God-ordained circumstances has a set of commands for you to obey that guide you in making the best use of your time.

2. The master is in control and he never makes mistakes.

3. Time is short.

“O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breadth!” – Ps 39:4-5

V. THE OBSTACLES

1. Laziness

“His life is chaotic because his soul is chaotic.” – Tim Challies

Passivity

2. Busyness

Guidelines to protect against busyness with the wrong things:

- Be faithful in each of your God-given responsibilities.
- Make time for what is important but not urgent.
- Ask which uses of time must be done by *you*.
 - Skills and talents, constraints and opportunities
 - The uses of time that fits you best will change over time.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”
– Ecc. 3:11

- Discover how you can glorify God in *every* use of your time.

3. People-Pleasing

“Am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” – Galatians 1:10

4. Thorns and Thistles (Gen. 3:18)

VI. CONCLUSION

1. What are God’s purposes for your time?
2. Plan how you will invest God’s time.
3. Trust in the sovereign goodness of God.