

# Gracenomics: Redeeming your Time

(2 Tim. 4:6-8)

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## Introduction

- Graceonomics part II (Authority and Accountability)
- That we would consume grace and be a people who desire for **God's grace to abound (consumption) and the transfer of grace to others.**
- **"the bad news is time flies; the good news is you are the pilot"** (Michael Atshuler)
- **In the UK the average life expectancy is 79.5 years old; this is equivalent to 954 months, or 29,037 days, or 696,882 hours.**
  - On average people spend one-third of their lives asleep, which is **318 months** taken up just by laying in bed,
  - So from the age of 19 when you leave education until 65 when you retire, let's say you work doing a standard eight-hour per day job, excluding weekends and a week holiday per year, this totals to **128 months of your life you spend working.**
  - The average person eats 5 meals per day, plus whatever munchies they eat between these meals, this gives an estimate that you spend **six years of your life eating.**
  - On average people spend **four years doing housework**, I could imagine it being higher for women though! We spend roughly **one year looking for lost possessions**
- **Why do I give you these numbers and information?** We spend a lot of our time doing things. Some things are productive (sleeping) and some are not (waiting in line at the store).
- But what would our lives look like if **we dedicated every second to the Glory of God**. If our one burning passion was to live a life where our time was redeemed (not wasted) by the King of Kings Jesus Christ!

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8

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### Are you willing to sacrifice? (2 Tim. 4:6)

- Paul had had his **preliminary hearing before Nero**, and was expecting the final one, and death. He knew it would **not be crucifixion**, for a citizen of the Roman Empire was not crucified. If the death penalty was demanded by the State, it would be **decapitation**, hence the figurative reference to a libation.

- Drink or libation offerings were **totally expended** or poured out as an accompaniment to the burnt offering in the sanctuary (Num 28:7). Paul had used this metaphor in Phil 2:17.
  - The present tense of the verb for “being poured out” suggests Paul’s **awareness** that this was an act then underway.
  - Paul was aware that he was slowly dying in God’s service, and he felt that the shedding of his blood in martyrdom would **complete** the drink offering to God. **He viewed the entire ordeal as a libation to God.**
- Paul’s life, God’s Word, God’s only Son **demands in us more than we desire to give**. God requires and asks of us that we are willing to be totally expended and poured out as an offering and sacrifice for the Lord.
  - This is why Jesus Christ himself said “**whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves take up their cross and follow me**” (Matt. 16:24).
    - Jesus words are dripping with **sacrificial language**.
    - **How have you sacrifice lately?** Have you sacrificed **at all** for the Lord Jesus Christ? God’s comfort and joy is the promise that no sacrifice for the Lord goes **un-noticed or un-rewarded**.
- Everyone us of is willing to **sacrifice for the things and people we love**, the things we believe in, and the work we feel a part of.
  - The Lord is doing great things at Bethel and our community.
  - Do you love this church? If so are you willing to sacrifice?
  - Do you believe in Kingdom work in this community? Are you willing to sacrifice?
- **We sacrifice for what we love and believe.**
- *Apart from faith in Christ, there is no explanation for such a life” (the tombstone of **William Borden**, Yale Grad and heir to a great wealth who gave all to the Lord spent 4 months in Egypt and contracted meningitis and passed at the age of 25)*
- Is there any explanation for your life other than the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you sacrificing for the one who sacrificed all for you? **Redeem our time**

## Are you living with urgency? (2 Tim. 4:6)

- Paul was a man who **lived with urgency**. He was writing from Roman prison under the sentence of death. He knew his time was almost over but he also knew that he was going to live for the Lord.
  - **Urgency = importance requiring swift action.**
- **Christians should live in the spiritual 2-minute drill. Often times we are lazy,**
  - My precious wife is a Bengal Tiger. They are known for, and much to the *disappointment of many of her fellow fans, having horrible clock management. The team knows how many minutes are on the clock, the coach knows how many seconds are left, they know the game hangs in the balance and yet, **from the fans perspective they have no urgency.***
    - **If anyone should know the eternal stakes and the gravity, frailty, eternity, and gift of each day is should be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!**

- Too often we have no urgency to share our faith, to serve the kingdom, or to live for the Lord. Many days we waste more time than we redeem.
- **Is it too late?**
  - If you feel like you are in the twilight of your years: remember this truth: as long as you have breath you can use it with urgency for the Lord.
    - **Auburn/Alabama and the kick 6. w/ 1 second (Nov. 30, 2013)**
- Friend are you living with urgency each day for Jesus? Are you redeeming your time, serving the Savior? May our urgency increase for His Name!

## Are you in the fight? (2 Tim. 4:7)

- Paul was a man who knew that he was in a fight. He knew how to fight, and he knew that the Lord was on his side.
  - I have fought the good fight
    - **Fight = (agon) = a contest of runners, charioteers.**
  - He calls Epaphroditus his fellow Soldier (Phil. 2:25)
  - And challenged us to put on the follow armor of God able to quench the fiery darts of the enemy (Eph. 6:10)
- **We need to wake up!** We are in a spiritual WAR. The War has been won but the battle is ongoing!
- **In wartime we ask different questions about what to do with our lives than we do in peacetime,**
  - At work are we fighting and adorning the Gospel or are we only fighting for the man? Fighting to claim our ladder of success. **We fight the good fight and for the souls of men not with the strength of our hands.**
  - **During WWII an entire basketball game at Northwester U. was stopped so that the referee and all 10 players could scour the floor for a lost bobby pin because metal was so precious.**
    - **Oh that we would be a church, men and women who would stand up and say I am ready to fight! I have fought the good fight! And my Savior is victorious!**
- **"If the devil were wise enough and would stand by in silence and let the Gospel be preached, he would suffer less harm. For when there is no battle for the Gospel it rusts and it finds no cause and no occasion to show its vigor and power. Therefore, nothing better can befall the Gospel than that the world should fight it with force and cunning." (Martin Luther)**
- Are you living with bravery, are you a valiant man or woman for the Lord. Are you fighting the good fight or do you feel beat down? May we redeem the time for our Savior!
- **Are you fighting the good fight or are you just fighting? Are you content to watch others fight?**

## Are you living with perspective? (2 Tim 4:8)

- “I have finished my course.”
  - The Greek word translated “**course**” (**dromos** (δρομος)) refers to a race course, the cinder path of the present day college athletic field.
    - The words “have finished” (*teleō* (τελεω)) are also in the perfect tense. Like a **Greek runner, he has crossed the finishing line and is now resting** at the goal. His life’s work is over.
- **If you don’t now the course how can you run?**
- Do you have an eternal perspective?
- One writer one said: 5 minutes after I die, I will know exactly how I should have lived,
- Here is perspective: So one crucial meaning of our secular work is that the way we do it will increase or decrease the attractiveness of the Gospel we profess before unbelievers,
- Are you living with perspective of eternity and eternal matter? We concern ourselves with eternal matter because Eternity Matters!
- Can you say today: I have finished the race, I have kept the faith?
- **Are you running well and are you finishing strong? May we leave a legacy to the world that Jesus Saves!!**

## Conclusion

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Are you redeeming the time? Are you serving your faith family and community like you should and can?

**There is such great joy in redeeming our time in service to the Lord!**

- We have many kids here weekly who need a godly man or woman to love them
- We have youth that need godly example
- We have people that need to see a smiling face at the door.
- We have hungry mouths that need a helping hand to feed them
- **At Bethel we serve and we serve in teams!**

○ **Will you redeem the time? Will you commit today to **give all for Christ?****

**Can you say like Paul: I have fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith?**

God graciously offers you the gift of salvation today if you confess your need → believe and Trust in Jesus → and put action to your faith

- **By sitting in your seat you are agreeing that you are right with God and do not today need to profess Him as Lord.**
- Do you have a Savior Story?

### Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

## Notes

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This letter was written by Paul from a Roman prison while he was under a sentence of death.

- Paul sent this very personal letter, with many pastoral instructions and guidelines, to Timothy, his protégé and spiritual son.
- The letter was delivered to Timothy somewhere in Asia Minor, perhaps in the city of Ephesus.

**4** They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.<sup>a</sup> **5** But as for you, be serious about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist,<sup>a</sup> fulfill your ministry.

**4:6** Paul linked this verse with the preceding verse by use of an emphatic “I” (*egō*), which the NEB renders “as for me.” He also used an explanatory “for” to introduce the verse. Paul was saying to Timothy in vv. 5–6, “As for you, keep your head ... because as for me I am going to depart” (author’s translation). The apostle used two metaphors to describe his anticipated death.

Paul had had his preliminary hearing before Nero, and was expecting the final one, and death. He knew it would not be crucifixion, for a citizen of the Roman Empire was not crucified. If the death penalty was demanded by the State, it would be decapitation, hence the figurative reference to a libation.

were probably a substitute for the blood used in heathen sacrifices (Ps 16:4). They were totally expended or poured out as an accompaniment to the burnt offering in the sanctuary (Num 28:7). Paul had used this metaphor in Phil 2:17. The present tense of the verb for “being poured out” suggests Paul’s awareness that this was an act then underway. Paul was aware that he was slowly dying in God’s service, and he felt that the shedding of his blood in martyrdom would complete the drink offering to God. He viewed the entire ordeal as a libation to God.

Second, he described his “departure” or death with a verb that pictures the departure of a ship by lifting its anchor or the breaking up of camp by a group of soldiers. Both the ship and the soldiers were going home, and the idea of going home was an accepted euphemism for death. Paul used the verbal form of the noun “departure” in Phil 1:23 (“depart”) to picture the possibility of his death. By faith Paul gave a marvelous appraisal of the grim prospects of his death

**2Tim. 4:6** For I am already being poured out as a <sup>a</sup>drink offering, and the time for my departure is close.

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**4:7** Paul found three metaphors to reflect the struggles of his ministry, not merely the difficulties of his life. His use of three Greek perfect tenses suggests that something was completed with consequences that still abide. The fight and the race were over, but the victory still abides. Paul had kept the faith, and it remains unshaken. Interpreters differ over whether the “fight” is a race (“I have done my best in the race,” GNB) or a boxing or wrestling match as the NIV suggests. Fee supports the former, and Kelly opts for the latter. Fee is probably correct in suggesting that Paul was not commenting about having done his best in the contest but was saying that he “has been running in the noblest, grandest run of them all—the ministry of the gospel.”

To “have finished the race” involves a foot race as a metaphor. Paul was not commending himself for having “run the full distance” (GNB) but was stating that he had followed the course laid out by his Lord. For a similar metaphor see Paul’s expression in Acts 20:24.

“I have finished my course.” The Greek word translated “course” (*dromos* (δρομος)) refers to a race course, the cinder path of the present day college athletic field. The words “have finished” (*teleō* (τελεω)) are also in the perfect tense. Like a Greek runner, he has crossed the finishing line and is now resting at the goal. His life’s work is over.

**8** There is reserved for me in the future the crown<sup>a</sup> of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,<sup>b</sup> will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing.<sup>c</sup>

**4:8** The victory Paul received as a consequence of his accomplishments in the good fight is described as a “crown of righteousness.” The crown was a reward given to a victorious athlete for prowess in a contest (see 1 Cor 9:25). It was usually a perishable wreath woven from ivy, leaves, or flowers.

## Illustrations

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- **What if I gave you money what would be obsolete in 3 weeks?**
  - **But what if I told you everything that you spent for the king would turn into an eternal treasure**

## Application

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- Work has dignity because it is something that God does and because we do it in God's place, as his
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