

# Manage Your Time

## 5 - Schedule Your Values

Throughout the New Testament, believers are exhorted to live deliberately and with purpose. Kingdom living demands a wise and deliberate lifestyle. Ephesians 5:15 puts it this way, *“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* Highly maturing Christians have learned the difference between prioritizing their schedule, and scheduling their priorities. “To-do” lists are usually activity-driven, but not necessarily purpose-driven. After all, many of the items on a “to-do” list may not be that important when viewed from the context of one’s life mission.

### Welcome

Someone has said there is three ways of thinking about time: prime time, grind time, and unwind time. We need all three. *If that’s the case, how do you typically spend your unwind time?*

### Worship

**Read 1 John 1:7.** Spend time singing to one another, thanking God for the fellowship we have in Christ. Possible songs, “A Common Love” (705), “Bind Us Together” (704), “Love One Another” (719).

### Word

#### Read Luke 12:12-21

1. *Why is the man in the parable considered a fool? In your own words, what is the punch line of this parable?*
2. Alexander Solzenitsyn once said, *“We always pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap.”* *What are some other ways a person might squander his/her life?*

#### Read Luke 16:1-9

3. *In light of the deceit, why does the owner commend the manager (vs 8)? What was Jesus’ point in using this parable?*
4. *In what specific ways do you find yourself looking ahead for your spiritual life? For your family? For your ministry in this church?*
5. Most people organize their lives around two things: the urgent and the unfinished. As a result, they often don’t live their life with a sense of balance or purpose. *What things help you from being “tyrannized by the urgent” (and trivial)?*

### Works

Spend some time this week asking yourself, “If \_\_\_\_\_ (just fill in the blank—i.e., “my life,” “my marriage,”) were to go on just the way it’s been going, what will it be like in five or ten years?” *What changes do you need to make in your schedule—living with “the end in mind?”*

There are so many ways you can organize your life. If you are living your life by a “to-do” list, you aren’t *purpose-driven*, you are *activity-driven*. If you haven’t developed this habit, learn to look ahead and schedule your priorities before someone else (it could be you!) fills up your schedule with things that aren’t as important. And keep in mind, God has already told us what is most important—Matthew 6:33; Matthew 22:37-40!