

TIME WAYS

Ephesians 5:16



“IMPROVING THE TIME”

- This is how Puritans in New England talked about time.
- The Bible certainly praises productivity with our time (Prov. 31:10-31; Matt. 25:14).
- We are to have a keen sense of the limited nature of it (Rom. 13:11).
- But there is a danger of losing sight of true priorities (Eph. 4:28; Lk. 10:38-42).
- There is also a danger of the pride of James 4:13-15.



“REDEEMING THE TIME”

- This is how Maryland/Pennsylvania Quakers talked about time.
- You can see the moral element of this phrase in scripture (Eph. 5:16).
- We are redeeming the time from the prince of this world (Eph. 2:2).
- We must recognize the limited value of even good things (1 Tim. 4:8).



“PASSING THE TIME”

- This is the way backcountry people talked about time.
- In fact, there is the simplicity advised by Ecclesiastes in this view (Ecc. 2:24).
- It encouraged a contentment about what is outside of our control (Matt. 6:25-34).
- The danger here is in believing you have no control over outcomes (Jer. 18:12).



“KILLING THE TIME”

- This is the way Virginia Cavaliers talked about time.
- This is even worse than the person who thinks he is in total control of his time.
- More than the passive wasting of time, this person pursues waste with vigor.
- Our society falls into the worst abuses of killing and improving time.

