

Pastor Dave Patterson
Ephesians Part 9
3.14.2021

[2 Timothy 4:1-3]

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. (***sound doctrine***)

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

Heresy is achieved when partial truth of the Word of God leads us into deception.

[Ephesians 5:2-9]

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Greed = “an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than one needs or deserves.”

New Testament Greek scholar William Barclay:

Greed / covetousness *pleonexia* =

“an accursed love of having more, which will cause one to pursue their own interests with complete disregard for the rights of others”

[Luke 12:14-15]

Jesus replied, “**Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?**” Then he said, “**Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.**”

You don't have to be rich to be greedy; greed is a condition of the heart, clutching and wanting more. Greed is, in fact, idolatry.

With increase comes the greater test. Live with an open hand. You can have some stuff, but don't let stuff have you.

[Ephesians 5:5]

“You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person **will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God**”

Tithing and giving releases the tentacles that have grabbed a hold of our hearts.

[Galatians 5:19-21, NLT]

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that **anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.** (see: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 amp)

This is how you know you're a son or a daughter: you are not comfortable with ongoing sin patterns and you find yourself continually coming back to the foot of the cross.

[Ephesians 5:10, NLT]

Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

[Ephesians 5:11-14, NLT]

Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and **Christ will give you light.**”

The light that is shining in your life exposes the enemy.

[Ephesians 5:15-16, NLT]

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.** “...redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (KJV)

Time / Grk/ *Kairos*

- A decisive moment in time
- A season of opportunity
- The right time
- A time of favor
- A limited time

Redeem / Greek / *exagorsazō*

- To pay the price in order to bring freedom
- to recover from the power of another,
- to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good

There is always a window of time to sow if you're going to reap.

[Acts 25:24-25]

Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the coming day of judgement, Felix was afraid and said, "Go away for now, and when I find a convenient **time (*Kairos*)** I will send for you."

[Luke 19:42-44]

"How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize the **time (*Kairos*)** of your visitation

[Luke 19:42-44, AMP]

“...the time of your visitation, when God was gracious toward you and offered you salvation”

[2 Corinthians 6:2]

For he says,

“In the **time (Kairos)** of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the **time (Kairos)** of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Go over the first few chapters of Ephesians and meditate over them slowly.
2. Look at the lists of those who will not inherit the Kingdom of God and release to God authority in more areas of your life.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some myths people believe or promote in some present-day churches? What do you think leads to these kinds of teachings?
2. According to 2 Timothy 4:1-3, people will have less tolerance for sound doctrine as time progresses. Why is sound doctrine important for our daily lives?
3. How would you define greed, and what motivates it? How does the nature of God directly contrast that?

4. In what ways are you living with an open hand, and at what level will you feel like you have enough?
5. What is the “root system” of your life? What fruit is it currently producing?
6. What pleases the Lord? How do these things shape your discipleship journey? How can you establish the Kingdom of God in your home?
7. What season or time is it for you? In other words, what **kairos** moments is God including you and your family in today? Are you redeeming the time that God has given you?
8. Who in your life might you need to forgive in this window of time? What is your hope in that relationship?
9. Who might you need to serve and what needs could you uniquely meet right now? By sowing relationally in this season, what might you possibly reap in the future?
10. Pray as a group for any prodigals represented in your families. Pray for them to “come home” in this window of time.