



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, January 23, 2022

Office hours: Mon / Wed / Fri 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800

Using Your Time Wisely by Billy Graham

It's trite but still true: We all have exactly the same number of minutes in a day. The question is, how will we use them? Most people today are either too busy – or not busy enough. Either our schedules are so hectic we can't get everything done, or else we are bored and restless, constantly looking for something to amuse us. We are the most frantic generation in history – and also the most entertained. The Bible, however, tells us that both extremes are wrong.

We can't always choose how to use our time, of course; sometimes our circumstances control us. My heart always goes out to the single mothers who write me, struggling every day just to survive. Disability, illness, unemployment, or retirement may keep us from doing what we once did and make us feel useless and only "killing time." But even if circumstances control our time, we can still control our attitude – with God's help. He can also help us gain more control over our time and begin to use it in new ways.

How can we use our time wisely? Let me suggest four steps I have found helpful.

First, see each day as a gift from God. Instead of seeing each day as a burden, see it instead as another opportunity God has given you to serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, nor can we assume we'll always have more; someday our time on earth will end. The psalmist said, "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15). The first thing we should do when we wake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Second, commit your time to God. God gave it to you for a reason: not to be wasted or mishandled, but to be used for His glory. We are accountable to Him for the way we use our time, and once a minute passes, it can never be reclaimed. The Bible says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

How can we put this into action? It may mean asking God to help us schedule our time more wisely and efficiently. It may mean rethinking how we spend our time, and then adjusting it to reflect God's priorities. We may also need to examine why we're so busy (or so bored). Is what we are doing really necessary – or are we simply trying to impress others? We can't do everything, and we need to say "no," if some activity isn't God's will.

Third, set aside time for God and for others. No Christian would say, "I'm too busy for God," but how often have you gone through a whole day without even thinking about Him (let alone praying or reading the Bible)? How often have you ignored someone who needed your encouragement or help?

Why is this? One reason is because we relegate God to our spare time – but end up never having any spare time! In other words, we mentally list everything we have to do and put God at the bottom of the list. But the opposite should be the case. Jesus said, "Seek *first* his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33, emphasis added).

Finally, take time for your own needs. We all need rest and recreation; God made us this way. Some people feel guilty if they take a vacation or even a few hours off, but they shouldn't. In the midst of an incredibly busy schedule, Jesus told His disciples, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). If Jesus required times of rest, don't we also? Someone who is chronically exhausted from lack of sleep or improper eating is much more susceptible to Satan's attacks.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Paul King: being treated for a blood clot in his lung.

Pat Greenwood: has shingles.

Clementine Lothar family: she passed away last week.

Arthur Davis Jr.: broken ribs sustained in a car accident.

Mariany & baby Jeffrey Clark: both have Covid-19.

Mark DaBaldo, Patty Conway, Nyah-Rae Jones, Mark & Shirl Ellis: continue to recover from Covid-19.

Bob Reece: continues to struggle with his health.

Bill Betit Jr: having difficulty swallowing as a result of radiation treatments on his vocal cords.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, & deacons as they lead our congregation.

Spanish Ministry: pray for encouragement and growth in this new ministry.

Greenbank missions: Westerholm (Mozambique), Borfay (Liberia), Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC. Pray for a new mission work that reflects the interest of our members.

Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.

If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to office@greenbankcoc.org for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website www.greenbankcoc.org.

Announcements and Events

Children's Church

Children 3 years old through 3rd grade will meet today in the yellow room downstairs during the sermon.

Winterfest – Pre-Trip Meeting

All Winterfest attendees are asked to stay after worship on Sunday, Feb. 13 for a brief meeting about the trip. This is an important meeting. Please try your best to attend. If you are making payments, your final one is due the same day. Anyone who would like to sponsor a student to attend Winterfest, please speak with Boyd or Lisa Reed.

Grief Share

Our Spring session begins March 14 and runs through June 13. Each meeting is held on Zoom from 6:30-8:30pm. To join, register online at www.griefshare.org. If you have questions, contact Judy or Mike Barker.

Small Groups

Resolve to join a small group this year to strengthen your relationship with God and the church. Meeting times and locations for all groups are posted on the bulletin board near the blue room.

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes for All Ages @ 9:30 a.m. including a Spanish-speakers class (adults).

In-Person Worship Service – English & Spanish @ 10:30 a.m.

The English service is live streamed with 3 ways to connect:

- 1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>
- 2) **Greenbank Website:** www.greenbankcoc.org Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to view the service through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

BIBLE STUDIES

Singles – Tuesdays @ 7pm – led by Mark DaBaldo; currently meeting via Zoom.

In Person – Wednesdays @ 7pm – John's Epistles led by George Kirkland.

Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would on Sunday.

Spanish (In-Person)– Thursdays @ 6:30 pm – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – “A Woman Who Doesn't Quit” led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Mark Ray.

3 Ways to Give

We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving.

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** PayPal has been set up on our website www.greenbankcoc.org. Click on the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. (**Note:** there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

Last Week: Attendance: 77 Contribution: \$5,362 Weekly Average: \$5,296