

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #10

“Redeeming the Time”

I. Welcome Back To The War Zone

A. We Are in a War of Worldviews

1. The battles are all around us in every sphere of life.
2. But the real war is between the Christian worldview and the humanistic worldviews of men.

“Compromise is impossible. Conflict is inevitable. Neutrality is inconceivable. Spiritual and ideological wars will continue, whether Christians want to believe it or not. The question is, ‘Are Christians prepared to fight?’”
Gary DeMar, War of the Worldviews

3. The sad answer is, “NO”. A Barna survey shows that only 1 out of every 5 American Christian even has a biblical worldview! 80% of us are asleep.

B. Discerning the Times

1. The Apostle Paul’s last words were a warning: “In the last days, perilous times will come.” (2 Timothy 3:1)
2. At least most of us will admit perilous times have come! But what are we to DO about it? Here’s our text for today...

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. See then that you walk circumspectly, (be careful how you walk), not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:14-16 NKJV

3. What does it mean to be “redeeming the time”?

C. Chronos is not Kairos

1. The Greeks had 2 words for “time”

a. Kronos refers to time we can measure with a watch or a calendar; events happen in “chronological” time; history unfolds chronologically. “What time is it?”

2. But when Paul tells us to “redeem the time because the days are evil”, he does not use the word “kronos”; he uses the Greek word “kairos”.

Kairos=season; the appointed time in the purpose of God

“Kairos” time refers to a “window of opportunity”.

“an appointed time, an opportune moment, a due season”

A teaching moment, defining moment, the moment when change is possible

3. To “redeem the time” means to “seize the moment”; take advantage of the “window of opportunity”; understand that the Church is in a “defining moment”! A God-appointed time when change is possible! Why?

BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL!

4. Amazing! Paul is saying that evil days and perilous times are God’s “kairos” moments for the Church to “awake from sleep”, “arise from the dead”, and “redeem the time”! Speak up! Go to war! But instead...

II. What Worldview Have We Heard?

A. Pertaining to the “Days of Evil”

1. Paul said, “Redeem the time for the days of evil”. But the American church has heard...

“Pack your bags, be ready to leave, for the days are evil”.

“You need do nothing. We know Jesus is coming, for the days are evil”

“What a way to live! With optimism, with anticipation, with excitement. We should be living like persons who don’t expect to be around much longer.”

Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth

a. Well, we’re still around. And so is he, a false prophet then and now; the author of a book that has put more Christians on the sidelines (waiting on the “rapture”) than any other book ever written.

b. For Lindsey, the “days of evil” are not to be “redeemed”; they’re signs that prove we need do nothing but wait for rescue!

“These beliefs about present and future world conditions function to justify social irresponsibility and comfort Christians in their lethargy.”

Ted Peters, Futures Human and Divine

2. No wonder we’re not winning the war! We’ve been taught to be cowards, ready to run away from the battlefield instead of being taught we are God’s army, ready to redeem the time in the days of evil.

Our failure as Pastors and Christian leaders is not equipping the sleeping Body of Christ with a biblical worldview that takes evil days and perilous times as “kairos moments” to be redeemed, not difficult things to be escaped from!

a. Everyone sees the same thing; but people interpret things according to their worldview.

b. Testimony: “Your extremity is My opportunity”.

“extremity”

A condition or circumstance of extreme need or distress.

Dictionary.com

3. The Bible is full of “kairos moments”; where the greatest moves of God came in crisis moments, evil days and perilous times! (Examples)

4. But God’s people don’t read their Bibles. They just trust their Pastors to tell them what it says. And what are they hearing?

B. Pertaining to Politics

1. American politics is in the crapper because of the crap some Pastors are preaching.

a. I heard a Pastor teaching his people that he would never preach politics in his pulpit. His text?

Our citizenship is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20

- He notes that the Greek word for “citizenship” is “politeuma” from which we get the English word “politics”
- But he failed to mention the context; Paul comparing the behavior of the “enemies of the cross of Christ” whose “god is their belly” with God’s people who are “citizens of heaven” waiting on Christ to return!
(There goes a 1000 votes from Christians who fail to “redeem the time” on Election Day)

b. I heard another Pastor teaching his people that Jesus told us to stay out of politics.

“My kingdom is not of this world”.

John 8:36

- But he failed to tell them the context: Pilate was fearful that Jesus’ followers might rise up and use force to free Him; so the rest of the verse says..

“if my kingdom was of this world, then would my servants fight...”

- Then He says...

“my kingdom is not an earthly one...”

- Jesus wasn’t tell us to avoid politics; He was telling Pilate that His kingdom did not originate from any earthly realm or political system; He was saying His authority did not come from men, but from God!
- In another place, Jesus said this...

And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.

John 8:23

- Jesus is not “of this world”; His kingdom is “of this world”! But He taught us to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”!

- The whole message of the Gospel of the Kingdom is heaven invading earth, in EVERY sphere of life! (Including politics!) The great 19th century Principal of Princeton University said it this way...

“The Kingdom of God on earth is without borders. It aims at absolute universality, and extends its supreme reign over every department of human life.”

A.A. Hodge

2. Jesus mentioned the church only 2 times in the Gospels; but He spoke of the Kingdom over 120 times!

a. But we have it just backwards; for every 2 sermons on the Kingdom, pastors are preaching 120 messages about the church!

3. The church is the Body of Christ; purchased with His precious blood; but the purpose of the church is to declare and advance the Kingdom until the Lordship of Christ is expressed in every worldly sphere. The church turned inward will have no outward effect....

“We will see no significant positive change in our culture until Christians first realize that we are in a war over ideologies that have personal, institutional, and societal implications.”

Gary DeMar, War of the Worldviews

4. Awake sleeper, rise from the dead, and redeem the time; in these evil days; in the political swamp; and WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

C. Pertaining to the Next Generation

1. Paul used this term “redeeming the time” in one other place in his instruction to the Colossian church:

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.¹

Colossians 4:5-6

a. Newer Bible versions translate “redeeming the time” as “make the most of every opportunity”.

b. Walk in wisdom (have a biblical worldview); the time is now to speak truth with grace

c. KNOW HOW YOU OUGHT TO ANSWER EVERY MAN!

2. Answer with what? With a biblical worldview that sees the sovereignty of the Kingdom of God and can apply the truth to every question!

3. Including what we are going to say to the next generation!

“This generation tends to see the world through the lens of their feelings.”

Sean McDowell, Evidence That Demands A Verdict

4. Our failure to preach a biblical worldview has produced a generation of young people who doubt if there is such a thing as objective truth.

58% agree with the statement, “Many religions can lead to eternal life; there is no one true religion”. 33% believe that sincerely believing something makes it true.

Barna Survey of Generation Z

5. There’s a place for pizza parties and Christian music concerts; but we have to redeem the time in these days of evil with real answers to real questions!

7 BIGGEST BARRIERS TO FAITH FOR NON-CHRISTIAN TEENS

1. Evil and suffering

2. Christian hypocrisy

3. The intersection of science and faith

4. Christianity is viewed as a fairy tale

5. Injustices committed in the history of Christianity

6. Church is no longer important

7. A bad experience with church or a Christian

a. One or two of these barriers can be brought down by love and fellowship. But most of them need some wise answers!

6. It’s going to take a prophetic people to speak truth and redeem the time in these days of evil; like the OT sons of Issachar...

**And of the children of Issachar were men that had understanding of the times,
to know what Israel ought to do...**

1 Chronicles 12:32

III. Conclusion

A. What We Ought to Do

1. We need to stop seeing these “days of evil” as something to escape from but as something to redeem.

“When the days are evil we have one superadded argument to redeem time, especially because we know not how soon they may be worse. People are very apt to complain of bad times; it were well if that would stir them up to redeem time.”

Matthew Henry

2. We need to know we’re in a war of worldviews and how to win it; the stakes are high.

“If the national life in general is organized upon non-Christian principles, the churches which are embraced within the universal assimilating power of that nation, will not be long able to preserve their integrity.”

A.A. Hodge

a. It’s a “kairos moment” because the days are evil.

“Man-centered worldviews of life want every vestige of Christianity expunged from every nook and cranny of the universe. As history shows us, such worldviews breed totalitarianism, enslavement, and the wholesale slaughter of millions. The State becomes the new god.”

Gary DeMar

3. This is our moment to see that doesn’t happen!

a. Always remember that our evil days are no worse than the evil days of the Roman Empire when Paul wrote these words-the early church “redeemed the time” and Rome fell.

4. The same can happen today!

REDEEMING THE TIME