

The Vital Importance of Good Garden (Pt. 4)
Colossians 1:9-14 *Buying back Time*
Jerry Cisar—July 8, 2007

I. A good theology produces a good garden!

"A good theology is good for the soul. But it is also good for the world.....A good theology... inevitably affects the world for good."

George Grant

➤ Ephesians 2:10

II. Ephesians 5:8-17 Be careful then...

A. KJV *"Redeeming the time"*

In an evil age we are to buy back time by laying down our lives... Time is of the essence.

ESV: *"¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."*

D. vs. 15 *"Be very careful, then"*

1. Because you were once darkness

2. Because fruitless deeds are called deeds of darkness,

Some work is more honorable than other work.

John Flavel, The Mystery of Providence, writes “... *If you neglect to instruct them in the way of holiness, will the devil neglect to instruct them in the way of wickedness? No, no, if you will not teach them to pray, he will teach them to curse, swear and lie. If the ground be uncultivated, weeds will spring up. If the season of youth is neglected, how little probability is there of any good fruit afterwards?*”

- o Deuteronomy 18:14, 15

Some leisure is more honorable than other leisure.

“There is a working class - strong and happy - among both rich and poor: there is an idle class - weak, wicked, and miserable - among both rich and poor.” ~John Ruskin

3. Because you have been sleeping

E. Live as children of light

Are you intending to produce fruit of goodness, righteousness and truth?

- o **Titus 2:11-14** speaks of “*the grace of God*” appearing and creating “*a people for his own possession who are **zealous for good works.***”

Good Gospel theology should create an host of people going into the world to do good.

F. Find out what pleases the Lord...understand what the Lord's will is.

Hudson Taylor *"A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a big thing."*

There are no little things when we do them right.

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Producing fruit is a farming analogy. In what ways might it be difficult for us to understand the importance of *"use your time wisely so as to produce the right fruit"*?
- Why is some work more honorable than other? What makes the difference?
- Are you eagerly seeking ways to do good works? (Titus 2:14)
- What are some ways you can *"redeem the time"* in these evil days? For you family? For you children? For the world?
- Why can we say, *"There are no little things when we do them right"*? [ref. the Hudson Taylor quote above]
- What are some areas in which you need to be careful how you use your time? ... areas in which you haven't been?
- ***What is the result of trying to live a false philosophy in the real world? What might be the results of living the truth in the real world?***