

**Monday, January 28** – *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:3-4)* Any discussion of how you use your time must start with your perspective. If you believe that your time is just that, your time, you will make very different decisions about your life, as opposed to believing that your time is a gift from God. The former sees time as a possession. The latter sees time as a gift. The difference between the two perspectives is appreciation. If you believe that time is your possession, you make yourself the master of your time. When you believe that you are the master you don't appreciate your time because mastering it is your only focus. If you believe that time is a gift, your appreciation flows out of the acknowledgment that the giver is in charge and every moment belongs to God. Thus, you are free to simply live as opposed to worrying about mastering your time.

**Tuesday, January 29** – *“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalm 100:3)* When it comes to your perspective on life you need to understand that we are all sheep. I know that you want to believe that you are the master of your universe, but the truth is we are all sheep. Not that being a sheep isn't important, but sheep are not at the top of the food (or intelligence) chain. Yet, understanding the sheep perspective is essential to understanding the perspective God desires you to have regarding time. Sheep don't sit around and make plans, look at their watches and keep calendars. Sheep simply do what sheep have been created to do under the watchful eye of the shepherd. The shepherd guides them and protects them and it is the same between you and God. Don't throw out your calendars and your watches, but understand that every minute that you have has been provided for you by the shepherd who protects you and guides you. Today, be the best sheep that you can be!

**Wednesday, January 30** – *“Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do not I fill heaven and earth?’ declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 23:24)* Here is the deal, you can't go anywhere to get away from God. God is in everything and is everywhere. One might think this perspective is creepy, but go with me on this for a minute. If God is everywhere, unescapable, it means that God is in all time. Everything that has come before, everything that will come in the future and everything that is right now is full of God. If God is in all time - past, present and future - what makes you think that you can spend your time without God being in on it? We fool ourselves when we believe that we can spend our time without God. You might not acknowledge that God is in all time, but that doesn't make it less true. Since God is in all time, don't you think it makes sense that you would check in with God, from time to time, to find out his plans?

**Thursday, January 31** – *“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)* So, what are you to do with all this time that God has given you? Nobody can answer that question, but God. I suggest you get into the habit of talking with God on a regular basis about your time. In the meantime, the Bible does help us understand the big picture, as it relates to your time. You are to be using your time “to do good works”. Thus, it is safe to say that God's gift of time wasn't given to you so that you can spend it being lazy or cheating or lying or stealing or otherwise hurting other people. God has a plan for your time, a plan to do good works, to make the world a better place and to bless other people. God put you in this place, at this time for a reason. The reason is to do good works. Why don't you spend some time today asking God what good works he has planned for you?

**Friday, February 1** – *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)* Nobody can tell you specifics about how you are to spend your time. That is between you and God. Yet, the Bible does give us a glimpse into the mind of God regarding the gift of time. God has plans to “prosper you and not to harm you.” God has plans “to give you hope and a future.” Sounds like a pretty good deal. In fact, you would be hard pressed to make better plans for your time on your own. Who doesn't want to prosper? Who doesn't want hope and a future? You have a choice to make, will you continue to attempt to be the master of your own time, not knowing the results of all your hard work, worry and investment? Or will you allow God to take the reigns and surrender your need to be the master of your time in order to receive prosperity, hope and a future?

God knows you \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

God has a plan and has gifted you to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

God has \_\_\_\_\_ that your life is here and now

God has seen your \_\_\_\_\_.

What you do with your life in the here and now is your \_\_\_\_\_.

Time is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.