You may not like what I have to say today. In fact, the subject about which I must write is not a favorite of mine, either. But, it is imperative that we, both individually and collectively, examine our use of the time and opportunities granted us during the last year or so. We are familiar with the song that begins with the title words, "Swiftly we’re turning, life’s daily pages; Swiftly the hours are changing to years...."

As we grow older, the pages do seem to turn much more swiftly, and Job’s words become more meaningful and more thought provoking: "My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle," Job 7:6.

Our subject is not the aging of any one of us. Neither is it the swiftness with which the years are passing. It is this: Have we been faithful stewards of the time given us this? Even secular thinkers see the importance of the proper use of time. Many of us were required as students to memorize the words of Benjamin Franklin on this subject:

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

Of all people, Christians should consider the value of time and then use it wisely. Paul wrote, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," Ephesians 5:15-16. The key words are redeeming and circumspectly. To redeem demands a "wise and sacred use of each opportunity to do good." Circumspectly describes one who is "watchful, exact and diligent." We must use each and every opportunity wisely. Remember: Opportunity + Capability = Responsibility.

RECREATION IS NOT WRONG

At this point I want to remind us that the proper use of our time will not negate the value of adequate rest and recreation. Jesus knew that men often need to "charge" their spiritual battery, and Mark records the time when Jesus took His apostles "apart into a desert place, and rest a while for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat," Mark 6:31. In Mark 7:24 we read that Jesus, having little time to rest, "Went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it." Unfortunately, the verse ends with the words, "He could not be hid."

God gave the Sabbath law as a day for man to rest. "Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed," Exodus 23:12. Rest. Refreshed. Yes, God knows our bodies and our minds need rest and "recreation." God knows. This, however, is no excuse for one who carelessly wastes time and opportunities to serve the Lord. His attitude is stated in 1 Corinthians 4:2, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." The one talent man wasted his talent, Matthew 25:14-30, and was unfaithful in his stewardship: "Thou wicked and slothful servant...... Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. He had the responsibility, but he wasted it. He was, therefore, an unfaithful steward. Is this not the real question I must ask myself: "What kind of steward am I?" A steward is one who is given the responsible charge of the goods and well-being of his/her master. What would you do if you had a steward whose loyalty is like yours? Would you dismiss him? Or would you consider him faithful?

(Continued on page 2)
EXCUSES DO NOT CHANGE FACTS

Though we are all involved in a stewardship to Jehovah, many are in the habit of making excuses and do not fulfill their responsibilities.

"I'm too busy."
"No one asked me to do anything."
"I'm doing more than most people."
"I'm getting older; why don't you just get somebody else."
"It won't do any good."
"I lead singing [or prayer, or wait on the table, or mow the grass]; somebody else can do the visiting."

Horace Mann once wrote:
Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.

Time that is wasted is gone, and it cannot be regained. Begin today by trying these suggestions for the future use of your time:

- First, determine that you will use your time and opportunities wisely.
- Make a priority list; decide what activities are most important; then use your time accordingly.
- Learn how to use whatever leisure time you have so that you really are rested and refreshed.
- Examine objectively your past opportunities to speak to others about Christ and His church.
- Don't clog your mind with worry and doubt; do the best you can, and then let God take care of the rest.
- Think of responsibility, not as a tiresome chore, but a possible way of helping someone who needs you.

The chorus of the aforementioned song gently reminds us, "Into our hands the gospel is given...Haste let us carry God's precious message, guiding the erring back to the right."

Why not determine that you will be a faithful steward of your time in the year to come. All our souls are at risk!
### Elders
- Don Bowen  903-874-3556
- Don Ivy  903-875-1483
- Paul Slaughter  903-872-1228
- Paul Stewart  903-874-3464
- Darwin Thomas  903-695-0176

### Deacons
- James Ainsworth  903-872-1390
  (Evangelistic prospects, seniors)
- Scott Barham  903-641-0133
  (State home, children group, building, grounds, vehicles)
- David Baumgartner  903-695-4299
  (VBS, Power Walkers, families)
- Bryan Bearden  903-874-0214
  (Worship, children group)
- Lynn Berry  903-872-5526
  (Freddie Anderson)
- Melba Bower  903-874-6394
  (Building, grounds, vehicles, administration)
- Kyle Calhoun  903-695-4369
  (Seminars, workshops, special events, meetings, youth group, education, curriculum, teachers)
- Micah Fry  903-467-6358
  (Evangelistic prospects, seminars, workshops, meetings, Medina Home)
- Dan Gibson  903-641-9587
  (Evangelistic prospects, worship)
- Micah Haden  903-673-1177
  (Seminars, workshops, meetings, children & youth groups)
- Eddie Moore  903-673-2803
  (Building, grounds, vehicles, worship)
- Rusty Owens  903-695-0095
  (Power Prayers, youth group)
- James Olsen  903-874-8918
  (Friends Day, families)
- Billy Roughton  903-872-9427
  (House to House/Heart to Heart, building, grounds, vehicles)
- Dickie Russell  903-874-4457
  (Benevolence program, Spanish ministry)
- Harrison Sloan  903-345-6061
  (Administration, seniors)
- Brent Stewart  903-641-0882
  (Evangelistic prospects, youth group)

### Ministers
- Sam Dilbeck  903-229-8415
- Russell Haffner  903-467-8895

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**The Women of Westhill**

**5th Annual Ladies’ Retreat**

**October 22 & 23, 2010**

Registration is underway at the Westhill church building and the cost is $65 for the retreat and $12 for the T-shirt.

The retreat will be hosted at the beautiful Summer’s Mill Retreat Center near Salado, Texas. We’ll check in at 4:30 Friday night, followed by dinner, singing, Bible study, and fun activities. We’ll conclude Saturday at 12:00 pm. Many ladies shop and eat lunch in Salado before returning home. Make plans now to attend with a friend!

What do Sam & Julie Dilbeck, James & Sue Welch, & this year’s retreat speaker have in common? They are all from a special little town called Caddo, Oklahoma. Jackie Mahana is our WOW Ladies’ Retreat speaker for 2010. She and husband Jimmy have two children who both attend Freed-Hardeman University. Jackie has worked as an educator for almost 20 years. She lives in Gunter, TX and worships with the Howe church of Christ where Jimmy has been deacon over the youth for 6 years.
Updates

Among the Ill: Marcia Lou Braly is home recovering from her double knee replacement surgery. Wanda Brown is home after her recent stay in the hospital. She is doing better. Continue to Remember: Jo Ann Chambers, Wayne Norris, Eula Mae Haynie, Bobby Heim, Otis Perryman, Dorothy Weaver, Violet Chilcoat, Marshall Mahoney and Audrey Hamel.


Sympathy
Nita Marshall’s oldest daughter, Becky Griffin, passed away last Monday evening. Services were held at Hamilton-Beamon Cemetery at 2:00 last Thursday.

Thank You
“Thank you for the demonstrations of your love. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. My recovery was ahead of schedule. The food was most welcome.” Your sister, Helen Simpson

The Sip-n-See Shower for Stephanie and Jamison Dickey is this afternoon at 4:30 in the parlor. Stephanie is registered at Wal-Mart.

There is an All-You-Can-Eat Ice Cream Junior High Devo tonight immediately following the evening worship service in the outreach center.

The Trinidad Church of Christ is Hosting a Singing this Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Food Is Needed for the benevolence program. Everything would be appreciated.

Medina Children’s Home will be coming by to pick up clothes sometime this week.

The Youth Group will Go to the Forth Worth Zoo Saturday May 29. The bus will leave at 9:00 a.m. Kids need to bring $12 for entry to the zoo and money for lunch.

The Family Fishing Tournament is coming up Saturday June 5. Make plans now to attend and if you can help in any way with this event (i.e. fileting, cooking, setting up, registration, etc.), let Sam know.

Privileged to Serve

Welcome
David Mahoney
Russell Haffner
Sam Dilbeck
David Baumgartner
Don Ivy

Caption: David Mahoney

Song Leader AM
Josh Haden
Oliver Jackson
Percell Milton
Rick Newton
Aubrey Parrish
David Shastid
Mike Wylie

Caption: David Mahoney

Opening Prayer
David Baumgartner

Caption: David Mahoney

Communion Leader
Don Ivy

Caption: David Mahoney

Communion Servers
Greg Dickey
Charles Harrison
Gene McDougald
Buck Murphy
James Olsen
Paul Ross
Bronny Watson

Caption: David Mahoney

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Caption: David Mahoney

Caption: David Mahoney

Caption: David Mahoney

Caption: David Mahoney

Caption: David Mahoney

Caption: Rick Newton

Caption: Darwin Thomas—903.695.0176

Caption: Cathy Privitt & Betty Jo Striplin

Records for May 9, 2010
Bible Class.................................................................229
AM Worship.............................................................363
PM Worship ..............................................................168
Wednesday Night......................................................173
Contribution....................................................................$8,949.64

Birthdays This Week
May 16—Jennifer Gannon
May 17—Chelsey Barham
May 18—Terry Barrett
May 19—Maxine Bankes
May 22—Polly Miller, Sue Welch