

## **DOES TIME EQUAL MONEY?**

No doubt you have heard the old adage that “time equals money.” This is generally applied to the realm of business, indicating that time is valuable so long as work is being accomplished in that time-frame. When workers are idle, money cannot be made, and a business cannot prosper. Those who are slothful in business cannot succeed (Prov.18:9; Rom.12:11), and they serve as poor examples of faithful servants of the Lord (2 Thess.3:10). Certainly this adage has its place in the business world, but should it be applied to other realms of human existence?

Sadly, many parents have the idea that time equals money, or rather that money equals time when it comes to the rearing of children. Parents are constantly pressured by the world to conform to its ways (Rom.12:1-2). Many have foolishly fallen prey to materialism, and are feverishly attempting to “keep up with the Joneses,” buying everything their hearts desire and everything they believe their children “need” to be accepted by their peers. As a result, many parents have to work far too many hours in order to feed their materialistic appetites. Children are robbed of time with their parents that they desperately need and want (see Deut.6:1-7). Many parents feel a tinge of guilt for this lack of time, and so in an attempt to make up for this dearth of time spent with their children, they lavish them with gifts and other trinkets. Whether they realize it or not, parents who act in such a way are essentially bribing their children to forgive them for a lack of time spent with them. Children do not spell love M-O-N-E-Y; they spell it T-I-M-E. Parents, do not fool yourself into thinking that quality is better than quantity when it comes to spending time with your children. I know of few parents who regretted that they did not spend more money on their children, but I have met many who regretted not spending more time with them! Money does not equal time with your children!

Some seem to think that money equals time in regard to their service to the Lord. The work of the Lord is just that—work. It requires time and effort of every Christian in order to carry the gospel to the world (1 Cor.15:58). Various programs of work are carried out within the local congregation in order to facilitate the winning of souls to Jesus. The Christian who will not give of his time in service to God is fooling himself/herself if they believe themselves to be faithful. There are those who seem to think that by donating money to a particular work, then they have absolved themselves of any further responsibility in the Lord’s service. It is as though they wish to pay someone else to put in the time that they, themselves, should be investing in the work of the church (see John 9:4—notice the personal nature of the work... “I must work...”). We should be grateful for those who are willing to open their wallets in order to finance the various works of the church, but it must be realized that money is no substitute for time. By not participating in

the works of the local congregation, many are unwittingly casting their vote for these works to flounder and fail. We cannot give enough money to alleviate our obligations to spend time in service to the Lord. The only thing that equals time in the work of Christ is time. Are you doing your part?

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