



Growing in Godliness: Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:7, "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness"

Lesson 7: The Discipline of Stewardship of Time

Ephesians 2:1-10

Us before salvation	Us after salvation
Dead in sin	Alive in Christ
Purpose: ?	Purpose: Created in Jesus for good works
Walk in trespasses, sins, passions of flesh, desires of body and mind, ways of the world and the devil	Created to walk in the good works that God prepared for us
Carry out the passions and desires of our body and mind	Created to carry out the passions and desires of God our Father

1 John 2:17, *"And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever"*.

Stewarding our time to walk in good works – it doesn't affect our salvation and it's not about being legalistic. It's about fruitfulness, doing what we were made for, obeying God, glorifying God and honouring our saviour. Enabled by the Holy Spirit's work in us via God's word, to change our heart and renew our minds.

Always moving from dead works to good works...

Romans 13:11-14, ¹¹ *Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.* ¹² *The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.* ¹³ *Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy.* ¹⁴ *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

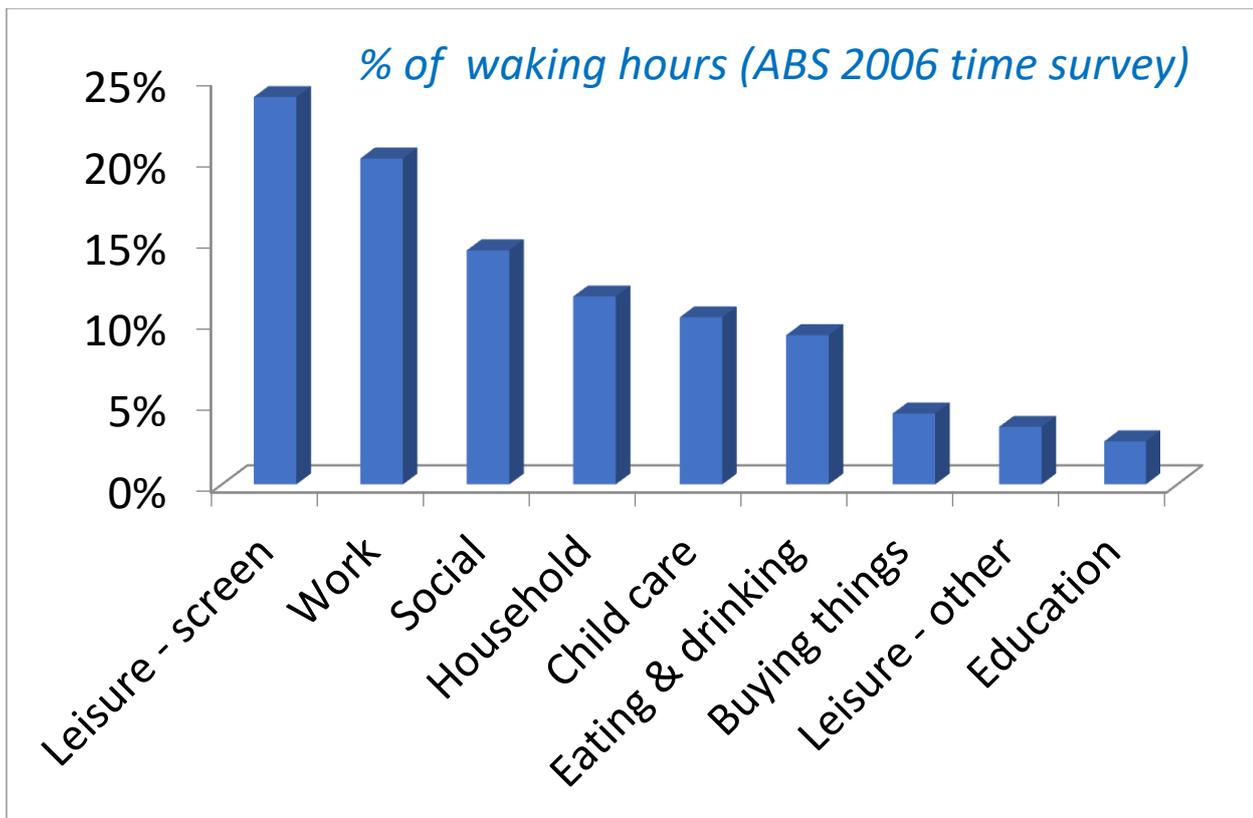
Ephesians 5:14b-17, *“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* ¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* ²⁰ *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ²¹ *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

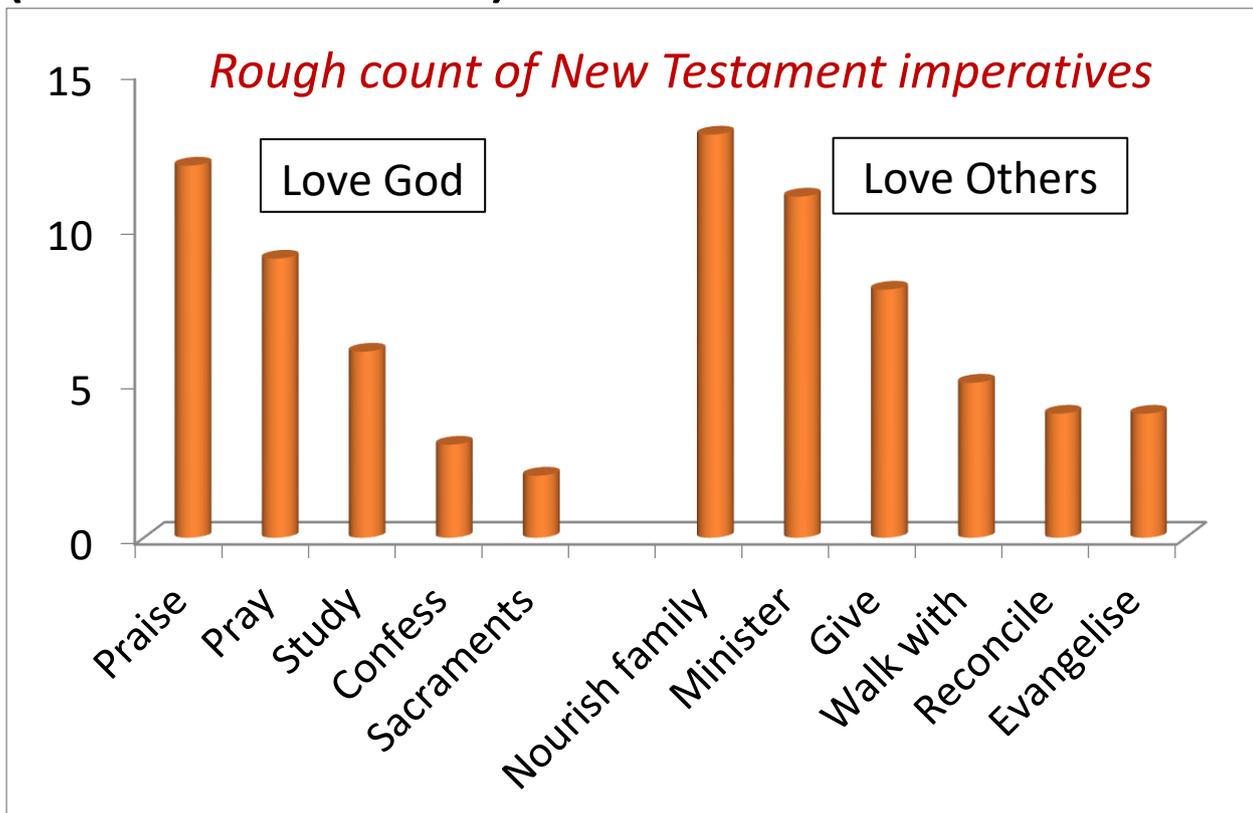
Psalms 90:10-12, ¹⁰ *The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.* ¹¹ *Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?* ¹² *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Number our days...?

How do Australians spend our time?



What does the Bible say about how to use our time? (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)



Praise	(Sing, praise, worship, give thanks, rejoice, abide, rest)
Pray	(Pray)
Study	(God's word)
Confess	(Examine self, confess sins, repent)
Sacraments	(Lord's supper and be baptised)
Nourish family	(Love spouse, train children, work)
Minister	(Teach, warn, exhort, encourage, use spiritual gifts)
Give	(Give, show hospitality, look after poor)
Walk with	(Love, rejoice with, weep with, bear burdens)
Reconcile	(Forgive, be reconciled)
Evangelise	(Make disciples, witness, prepare answer, preach gospel)

That's a long 'to-do' list! What about rest / recovery / joy?

How can I best love God and others during a pandemic?

Who suffers if we don't walk in the good works God prepared for us? (Read Esther 4:14)

Jonathan Edwards' resolutions on time (paraphrased sample)

1. Not lose one moment of time, but improve it in the most profitable way
2. Never do anything I'd be afraid to do if it were my last hour
3. Live as I will wish I had done when I come to die (or am in heaven)
4. Not give way to listlessness which takes me away from being fully and fixedly set on God
5. Inquire every night before bed, where I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself