

“A Waste of Time for God”

Many of us live busy lives, leaving little time for our families, friends, (sometimes even ourselves), and most importantly for God. For much of the world, the thought of giving or having time with God is ludicrous and a complete waste of time. Well I say, “Let’s get wasting!”

I think of this word and concept, ‘time,’ at the beginning of a new year, as many of us do. One thing I’ve learned in the past thirty-something years of my own life is that many people, organizations and bosses, among many other unmentioned things, compete for our time. Certainly, we spend the majority of our time doing what is most important to us; and for some of us that’s what our parents tell us to do. Much of our time is spent sleeping (unless you have an 11 month old and a 3 year old living in your house). We have this tendency to look at our time as a pie. We divide the pie up according to priority and necessity. We even give God a piece sometimes. I don’t think this model of time is what God had intended when God created us.

We forget that God is beyond measurement of time. God is giving us 100% of the pie. If we truly believe in a God that is with us, before us, behind us, above us, within us...all of the time then wouldn’t we be ‘wasting’ every part of every day, acknowledging God as the very source of life in all that we do, even in our sleep?

When it becomes too hard to acknowledge God in our daily lives that may be a sign that the ‘stuff’ we **do** may be getting in the way of who God wants us to **be**. Wasting time with God may even require us to miss basketball practice, miss a meeting, miss our favorite TV show or sports game or give up one of these things altogether.

It is known of Martin Luther that on the days that he had the most work to do, those are the days he spent most of his time in prayer and meditation with God. I’ve tried this. You know it’s kind of strange, but it works. The days you are most weighted down with stuff to do, your tightest schedule, your most stressful days, at least begin in prayer and

devotion with God. Your ‘wasted’ time with God will make all the ‘important’ tasks in your day become effortless.

This year as you begin to divide up the pie (if you live this way or are forced to) don’t forget that you are 100% of God’s pie. This year seek how you might waste your time through worship, serving others, gaining wisdom, telling others about your faith and opening your life up to a neighbor.

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness;
and all these
things shall be added unto you. **Matt. 6:33***

Gerard Von Holten

Youth and Family Ministries