REDEEMING THE TIME

By Rabbi/Rabbi/Brother Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky
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In Ephesians 5:16 the Master Yahshua instructs us to redeem time because the days that we live in are evil. Unfortunately most children of Yahuwah do not know how to redeem time, unless they are personally taught by the Master. Redeeming time is not something that we do naturally, rather it is something we can be trained to do supernaturally. In verse 15 we are told that we are foolish children of Yahuwah if we do not allow the Master to conduct this training in our lives. Since our physical life is so short, we need to be wise concerning His personally selected will for our life. We need the wisdom of Solomon in our believing life. Sadly most born again saints do not have a clue about just how to redeem time. Aside from using our time in a pious manner, there are several incorrect ways to handle our time:

1. **Wasting Time:** Most of us are very good at this. Simply put we who know Yah's will and Yah's call, but may find ourselves continually postponing it. We just refuse to get around to do what we know we have to do. We continually postpone His will for another time and another place. Wasting time is enacting our alternative evil through postponement of His will (Prov. 26:16).

2. **Passing Time:** This what we do when we are waiting for something better to come along. Usually this other "better situation" never comes along. When it does come occasionally, we find that the long waited for situation is worse or less appealing than the situation we already had. I call this the classic "green grass syndrome."

3. **Making Time:** Several of us who love Yahshua, spend far
too much time with losers. A loser by biblical standards is defined as someone who is unsaved and continually rejects the gospel and has no personal relationship with Yahuwah through His Son. Their ungodly character and chatter will expose you to unclean demonic spirits. Drinking, cursing, drugs, illicit sex, corrupt company, filthy videos and are all devilish methods to dissipate the little precious time we have on the earth to serve Yahuwah (Eph. 5:18, Second Corinth. 6:15-20). Making time is an oxymoron for the bible believer. Making time is for losers not for those called to be more than conquerors!

4. Doing Time: This unwise expenditure of time is a direct result of “making time”. If you foolishly “make time”, you invariably will wind up doing time. Doing time is not limited to being physically locked up behind bars, although that is certainly a possibility. In the realm of the Ruach Hakodesh anyone who is bondage to a particular sin, is locked in a spiritual prison cell with the devil. The devil becomes your cell mate. You and I do not need to be doing time with the enemy (John 8:34).

5. Spending Time: Proverbs 18:24 clearly reminds us that Yahshua our risen Messiah is the only true Friend that we have and that we can count on. He promised to stick closer than a brother. Although our brothers and sisters in Yahshua are a precious gift to us as well as being a Yahuwah ordained network of support, they must never be given more time by us than Yahshua Himself. When you and I spend more time with other believers than we do with the Master, we are "spending time". While spending time is not evil in itself, lack of self control in the misappropriation of time can quickly lead to idolatry. Biblical idolatry is anything or anyone that takes up more time than your precious King.

6. Redeeming Time: Only spiritually mature and spiritually
sensitive believers “redeem time.” When believers decrease time for all other things and purposefully and prayerfully increase time with Yahshua, they receive a special reward as a child of Almighty Yahuwah. This reward is the gift of time redeemed. To redeem by definition means to “buy back” time. Spending time with Yahuwah allows you and me to increase our time allotment on earth by adding purchased time to our lives. The world tells us that a person can’t buy time. That is not true or scriptural!. As usual the world lies to us about the privilege and gifts inherited in and for Yahuwah's service. Born again believers are the only ones on the planet who not only can have their days increased like King Hezekiah, but are admonished in scripture to actively do so! When we become so enamored with His glorious and radiant presence, time will be returned to us since we have been released from the limitations and constraints that time and space have placed on the human race. To be with the Yahshua on earth or in heaven becomes our overriding priority We are with the Yahshua and all earthly objects lose their meaning and pull on us. We are caught up in the Ruach if you will. The things of earth go strangely dim as the hymn writer said.

I believe that when we reach this deep intimacy with Yahuwah the natural difference between heaven and earth disintegrate. Death comes to mean the opportunity of a lifetime to see the face of the one whose voice has become a daily companion. Only those who desire such a close walk with Yahuwah-Tzivaot will receive this gift. It is a gift that has to be chased and sought. It is not granted automatically upon salvation.

In my own walk with Almighty Yahshua, I have learned just
what a gift “redeemed time” really is. Activities such as speaking the word, singing the word, meditating on the word, memorizing the word and the like, may take time away from other activities, however Yahuwah promised to multiply the time we give him back to us many times over, when we diligently seek Him with a fully sincere heart. In the course of buying back our time, we become more intimate with the Master. The process therefore becomes a blessed and anointed circle, wherein we minister to the Master and He ministers back to us. We give him time and he gives us more time in return. The result of redeeming time is that we will become more thankful for salvation and increasingly willing to submit our lifestyle to His sovereignty in our lives.

Yesterday is in the tomb. Tomorrow is in the womb. Today you and I need to buy back some time (Second Corint. 6:1-2). As we draw closer to the Master, the words of Second Peter 1:10-11 will ring true in our hearts, " for if you do these things you will never stumble, for soon an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahshua the Messiah."