

Happy New Year!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



Announcements

Mark your calendars for our 2020 week-long **Prayer & Fasting** to be held on **January 20-24, 2020**. Let's start the new year by coming together as a congregation in prayer as we seek God's favor for our church and for our lives.

Growing in the faith calls for diligent study of God's Word. We encourage you to take advantage of our 5-Day devotional with daily Bible readings, articles, reflection questions and applications to help you in your walk with Jesus.



How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together.

To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



Stay for Fellowship & Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

*The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

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LIVING WORD NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

#WISDOM

MOVING BEYOND JUST INFORMATION

THE RISE OF THE WISE WALKERS

Ephesians 5:15-17

Arnold Alo (Elder) | January 5, 2019 | 10AM & 1PM Service

sermon notes



SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 4. VOLUNTARY IGNORANCE

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hosea 4:6.

We are moving toward an era similar to the Dark Ages, when copies of the Scriptures were chained to the pulpit in the secret language of the clergy ... when the public was kept ignorant of the life-changing teachings of the truth. But there is one difference. In those days, biblical ignorance was *forced* ... in our day, it is *voluntary*. Therein lies the saddest fact of all.

Upon whom do we rest the blame? Some would say the *seminaries*. Others blame the *pulpits* of the land. Still others would blame this satanic, pressurized system we call the *world* – society – with its persuasive pleadings and so-called academic arguments against what is termed “a fanatical, foolish belief in the Bible.” To embrace its truths, we have been told it is tantamount to committing intellectual suicide.

But in the final analysis, ignorance is a personal choice – *your choice*. If something is going to plug the dike, it will take *your* finger to stop the leak ... and fast.

Reflect & Apply.

1. What would you say was the average time you spent reading and meditating on the Bible in 2019? Would you say you have been consistent in your Scripture reading? If not, what is your biggest reason?
2. In Hosea 4:6, what is the tragic result when God’s people ignore his Word?
3. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and fill in this next-step statement:
I will intentionally spend ____ minutes everyday to meditate on God’s Word in 2020.

DAY 5. PERSPECTIVE

Read: Psalm 91.

What is perspective? Well, it’s obviously related to the way we view something. The term literally suggests “looking through ... seeing clearly.” One who views life through perspective lenses has the capacity to see things in their true relations or relative importance. He sees the big picture. He is able to distinguish the incidental from the essential ... the temporary from the eternal ... the partial from the whole ... the trees from the forest.

Many things help prompt perspective. Quietness. A walk in a forest. Time spent along the roaring surf. A view from a mountain. Poetry. Travel. A stroll through an old graveyard. An evening beside a fireplace. Camping out under the stars. Protracted times of prayer. Deep, profound strains of music. Meaningful worship. Meditation upon Scriptures. A leisurely drive at sunset.

On such occasions, time stands still. The chips of insignificance fall away as the broad images of truth emerge in the monuments of our minds. We begin to see more clearly as the fog lifts ... and we are running no longer. Or confused. Or angry. Or overwhelmed. Or afraid.

Could such places of perspective be considered “shelters of the Most High”? When we are there, could we be “abiding in the shadow of the Almighty,” which David mentions in Psalm 91? If so, isn’t it about time you found a shelter of perspective in God’s shadow?

Reflect & Apply.

1. In Psalm 91:1-2, what four metaphors of God does the writer use? What do these words say about God’s character?
2. What do you think would it look like for a person to “dwell in the shelter of the Most High” (verse 1)?
3. Set aside time from the rush of life and meditate for a while on Hebrews 12:1-3.



**Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.**



“WISE WALKERS”

January 5, 2020

Questions for Personal Study & Reflection

This 5-day devotional includes readings with brief commentaries that builds upon the weekend sermon. You are encouraged to take the time to read the Bible passages and meditate on them. On average, you will need 20-30 minutes to complete them.

Reflection questions and applications are intended to invite you to slow down and meditate on the truth that God is teaching you. Daily application steps are also given to help drive the message in practical ways.

DAY 1. THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

Read: Ephesians 5:15-17; Hosea 10:12.

Time is your slave, completely available and cooperative. He hasn't a lazy streak in his entire makeup. What's more, he provides you with an equal break every day you live, for no one else has *more* or *less* time than you when any day or week begins.

Your goal, then, is not to *find more time* but to *use time more wisely*. You see, we really aren't responsible for our capacity ... but we are certainly responsible for the strategic investment of our time. The literal rendering of Ephesians 5:16 is "redeeming the time."

That's worth a moment of meditation. Time must be purchased. We pay for it through selected activities and occupations, important or otherwise. And when it comes right down to it, the great difference between one person and another lies largely in his or her use of time.

Listen – God has given you (as he gave his Son) sufficient time in each day for you to fulfill his perfect plan – including the interruptions! If you're fudging on your sleep or becoming a frantic, nail-biting, hurried Christian, then you are adding to your day too many things that simply are not his will for you.

It's easy to forget that time is our slave, not our sovereign, isn't it?

Reflect & Apply.

1. What is the biggest time waster in your life today? (e.g. social media, K-drama, YouTube, television, etc.) Be honest. Would you say that for most of the time, you are using time wisely?
2. Why does Paul say that the "days are evil"? What does that have to do with "making the most of your time"?
3. Meditate on Hosea 10:12. How can you dedicate to God your use of time in 2020?

DAY 2. NOW

Read: Proverbs 14:23, 31:10-31.

Allow me to introduce a professional thief. Chances are you'd never pick this slick guy out of a crowd, but many, over the years, have come to regard him as a formidable giant. His name? *Procrastination*. His specialty? Stealing time and incentive.

You step on the bathroom scales and blink in disbelief. The dial tells you the truth, but the thief offers another interpretation. Stealing your surge of motivation, he whispers the magic word – *mañana (tomorrow)* – and you reach for a donut to celebrate your philosophy: Never do today what you can put off 'til tomorrow.

There once lived a politician named Felix. On two separate occasions, Felix listened to Paul tell his story, presenting in simple terms the matter of faith in Jesus Christ. Felix heard every word but passed off the message with similar comments (see Acts 24:22, 25).

Felix heard Paul, but listened to the thief. He intentionally put off the most significant moment of his life – a decision he will never forget. Never. Why? Because he listened to the wrong counsel. It was only a subtle suggestion. It was simply, "There is no *hurry*." Thereby the grim thief won another victory of defeat.

"How can I win?" you ask. It's really very simple, so simple you won't believe it. All it takes is one word. It may be easy to say – but it will require all the discipline you can muster to *mean* it. To implement it will demand, in fact, the power of God himself.

The word is "Now."

Reflect & Apply.

1. When it comes to your spiritual life, what area of discipline have you been putting off? Why do you procrastinate in this area?
2. What would it look like for you to grow spiritually in 2020? Write out specific plans below.

DAY 3. THINK WITH DISCERNMENT

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Luke 12:54-57.

Paul informs us that discernment is one characteristic that accompanies genuine spirituality (1 Corinthians 2:14-16). Hebrews 5:14 calls it a mark of maturity. Discernment, you see, gives one a proper frame of reference, a definite line separating good and evil. It acts as an umpire in life and blows the whistle on the spurious. Discernment picks and chooses its dates with great care. It doesn't fall for fakes.

A Christian without discernment is like a submarine in a harbor plowing full speed ahead without radar or periscope. Or a loaded 747 trying to land in a dense fog without instruments or ratio. Lots of noise, a great deal of power, good intentions ... until.

Do I hear you say you want it, but don't know where to go find it?

- Get on your *knees*. James 1:5 promises wisdom to those who ask for it.
- Go to the *Word*. Psalm 119:98-100 offers insight beyond our fondest dreams.
- Go to the *wise*. Discernment is better caught than taught. Those who have the disease are often highly contagious.

This offer is good throughout life and comes with a satisfaction-guaranteed clause. All may apply even those who think they know it all, and know not that they know nothing.

Reflect & Apply.

1. When was the last time you thought you knew what to do but later found out that you didn't? What was the situation?
2. Study the hard words Jesus had to say about discernment in Luke 12:54-57. Is there anything in these verses you needed to hear?
3. Then look over 1 Corinthians 2:12-16 and think about this passage as you thank God for making his wisdom available to us.
