



Don't Miss  
the Moment

Good Morning Church Family!

## Connection Cards & Spotlight

One of our core values here at Brandywine is **Thriving Families**. We are committed to helping families thrive according to God's design for the household. And **Child dedication** is one way that the church family commits to supporting families. Our next child dedication is on Sunday, October 27.

To participate please contact office by October 20.

**Pray**



# Don't Miss the Moment

This morning we are going to be focused on not missing the opportunities that the Lord places in front of us.

Because whether we actively acknowledge it or not, God is placing opportunities before each of us every day. Opportunities to grow, to become a more sanctified version of ourselves, opportunities to shine light into the areas where we live, work and play.

But you know, it's common for us to miss opportunities in life. Some of this is because we lack maturity, some of this is because we are too self-focused to look around, and some of this is because we ***lack vision*** to see and believe in all that God might do if we stepped fuller into His will for our lives.

**Lacking vision for what God wants to do in your life is one of the main reasons why we miss opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus.**



To illustrate this point, **how many of you remember of Blockbuster Video, yeah remember them?** Blockbuster Video (*for those of you who are too young to remember*) was the absolute joy of driving down to the local strip mall, and arguing with your family in front of the entire store about which movie you were going to take home, forgetting to rewind the tape before you returned it, getting hit with late charges when one of the kids lost the video they took to their friends house.

In the early 2000s, **Blockbuster** was a dominant force in the movie rental industry...they had thousands of stores worldwide. But you might not know that at the exact same time, a small startup called **Netflix** was trying to get off the ground offering DVD rental by mail, and later developing the streaming service everyone knows today. Well in their early years Netflix was struggling to grow, and so they approached Blockbuster with a proposition. In the year 2000, Netflix's founders, **Reed Hastings** and **Marc Randolph**, offered to sell their company to Blockbuster for \$50 million (that's a lot of money).



Blockbuster's executives dismissed the offer immediately. They considered Netflix's business model too small and not worth their attention. Blockbuster was confident in their physical rental stores, and they completely underestimated the potential of online movie rentals and streaming technology. They continued their solemn focus on their brick-and-mortar business.

**We all know how this story ended.**

As technology advanced and consumer habits shifted, Netflix's business model exploded. They pivoted to streaming, and by the late 2000s, they had redefined how people consumed entertainment. Meanwhile, Blockbuster failed to adapt to the digital era and the streaming revolution. In 2010, Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy, while Netflix continued to grow into a global entertainment giant, now worth **\$311 billion** (as of Wednesday when I researched this).



# Don't Miss the Moment

You see church a lack of vision caused Blockbuster Video to miss the moment of opportunity. But this is just talking about money, and in the end that isn't of eternal value. What is of eternal value are the lives and the eternity of the people whom God has placed on our path. **Therefore we cannot miss out on those moments of opportunity.** And each of our paths are unique. Did you know that you are the only person who knows all the people you know? Just you!

And if you are here today and you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you may be the only opportunity for your friend, your neighbor, your family member, your \_\_\_\_\_ to hear about the greatest thing that ever happened. Jesus Christ lived, loved, died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins!

This morning our sermon is entitled **Don't Miss the Moment.** Because you see there are moments in our everyday lives where we do miss the opportunity to share our faith, or to go further in a conversation that might plant seeds in the lives of those whom God has entrusted us with.



# Don't Miss the Moment

Our sermon text this morning is Ephesians 5:15-17 please turn there in your Bibles or mobile apps. To give some context for where we are diving into this epistle...in chapter 4, Paul begins to instruct the Ephesians on how to live a life worthy of their calling (Ephesians 4:1). He emphasizes unity within the body of Christ, spiritual maturity, and living a life that reflects the transformation that comes through faith in Christ. He calls believers to put off their old selves, marked by sin, and to put on their new selves, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

And then Chapter 5 continues this practical teaching by focusing on living a life of love, purity, and wisdom. Paul exhorts the Ephesians to imitate God and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us (Ephesians 5:1-2). He also contrasts the ways of the world—sexual immorality, impurity, greed, and foolish talk—with the ways of the kingdom of God.

## Ephesians 5:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is.

And so here in chapter 5 verses 15-17 Paul says <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is.

These three verses are full of wisdom that we can apply to our lives, but this morning I want to focus on three specific take aways.

# Live with Purpose and Awareness

The first one being to **LIVE WITH PURPOSE AND AWARENESS.**

Paul calls us to “be careful” how we live, urging us to walk with **purpose** and **awareness**. The Greek word “be careful” in this context carries the idea of living thoughtfully and intentionally, paying close attention to **how our choices reflect our faith**.

Church family, we are to approach each day with a sense of purpose, recognizing that every action, decision, and relationship is an opportunity to reflect Christ. And so, instead of simply drifting through our lives, we are called to live with clarity and focus, aware of the impact our lives can have on the world around us.

Church ask yourself...do I live each day with a great sense of purpose about how my life can impact others? I know some of you do. But I also think some of us sell ourselves short.



## Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

But you see friends God's word tells us in **Philippians 2:13... For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

Meaning that if you feel inadequate when you have the opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation... that's ok, because it isn't you doing the heavy lifting anyway.

**It is God** who works in us, to fulfill **His good purpose.**

Friends if we live with an awareness of that purpose, we will not miss the moment.

# Seize Every Opportunity

The second application point we see from Ephesians 5:15-17 is to **Seize Every Opportunity.**

This might seem daunting, but it would be hard to argue that this isn't exactly how Jesus Christ saw his life. Our Lord and Savior, God in the flesh, seizing every opportunity He had.

And so in our text Paul is urging believers to make the most of every moment because as he says...the days are evil.

Church family we must recognize the brevity of life and the fleeting nature of the opportunities we have to serve God, love others, and share the gospel.

Think about this...each moment of your life has eternal significance.

How are you making the most of the opportunities God has given you? Time is a gift, and we are called to use it wisely, especially in a world marked by spiritual darkness.



# Don't Miss the Moment

A few weeks ago our family went out to eat at Jersey Mike's. And right after we placed our order in walks a man who is covered head to toe in dirt and soot. It was apparent to me as he stood behind me in line that he had just completed a very exhausting day at work.

And so I looked at him, and said, “**Boy you are one hardworking man!**”

He then immediately launched into his entire life story, telling me that he was adopted as a toddler from a Ukrainian orphanage, and that hard work was instilled in him from a young age and how much he valued his family and citizenship here in the US.

And so in the middle of this Jersey Mike's I'm like...I've only know this guy for 2 minutes and he's already shared with me more about his life than people I've known for years. **I can't miss this opportunity.** So I offer to buy his dinner, and then I just began to pray in the quietness of my mind for a greater opportunity to share the gospel.



While we are waiting for our food to come out. I asked him if there was anything I could be praying for him about. He shared that both this mother and grandmother were ill. I also asked him if he had a faith in God. He said he grew up Christian but didn't really ever go to church.

Our family then prayed over him (in the middle of this Jersey Mike's), for healing for his mom and grandmom and for him to reconnect with the Christian faith.

This man's name is Andre he lives out of state, he was working in Kennett that particular day. After we prayed Andre thanked us grabbed his sandwich got in his car and headed back to Maryland.

Now I don't know what will come of this, hopefully our conversation sparked something within Andre that will cause him to find a local church. But the truth is, it's not up to us to bring the results, that's God's job. Our job is to be faithful to the call. I felt called by God to start that conversation, and I'm glad I listened.



# Don't Miss the Moment

## Church who is your Andre?

And what I mean by that is...Who in your life needs you to ask them a question that can be an on-ramp to a gospel conversation?

Because we all have moments when we know there is an opportunity....but we miss the moment because we are too busy, too preoccupied, too \_\_\_\_\_.

But as we prepare our hearts and minds to be ready for these type of conversations that can occur in the everyday moments of life...we will be much more equipped to **Seize Every Opportunity.**

# Seek and Align with God's Will

The third application point we see from Ephesians 5:15-17 is to **Seek and Align with God's Will.**

In Ephesians 5:17 Paul contrasts **foolishness** with **understanding God's will.**

Because you see the fool doesn't even consider consulting with God because he already has his plans. While the wise on the other hand are deeply seeking God's will as they understand their own limitations.

And you see Paul's exhortation here is towards a life of spiritual discernment. To "understand" God's will requires reflection, prayer, and a heart that seeks to know God's purpose and plan for your life.

You see we often miss the moment because His concerns are not our own. But what we don't understand is that living this life without aligning with God's will, it like trying to navigate the seas without a compass or GPS...it's hazardous.



I recently heard the true story about a conservationist named Paul Rosolie who set out on a 20 mile expedition with a few others in the Amazon rainforest. Paul and the others didn't take a GPS with them even though they had one at camp. And of course because it's the Amazon they got lost. And they didn't get a little lost....they got BIG LOST.

Paul and the others spent 3 days wandering through the Amazon rainforest, they were delirious, without water or food.

They knew that time was running out for them, and then on the 3rd day, all of a sudden in the middle of the Amazon forest these conservationists found a road in the middle of nowhere (ironically these conservationists found a road that was cut by loggers) this road led them to a river that then led them back to their camp.

When questioned on a podcast about his failure to take a GPS, Paul said, "I just wanted the expedition to be pure, I wanted to find the way myself."



## Don't Miss the Moment

You see Church I think that the same spirit that almost cost Paul and the other conservationists their lives, is the same spirit that keeps us from tapping into our GPS...God's Word.

**"I want to find the way myself."**

We can often possess a sense of self dependance that renders alignment with God unnecessary from our perspective.

**And we can miss key moments in life, because we are far more aware of our own directional map (where we want to go), than we are of God's perfectly calibrated course for our lives.**

You see church family, if you firmly believe that God has a plan for your life, and you want to live in concert with God's plan...that vision for your life will radically alter the trajectory of your life. Because you will find yourself constantly seeking to align yourself with God.



## Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.

Earlier in the book of Ephesians in chapter 2 verse 10, Paul explains an important part of who we are, and what our lives are meant to be.

He says in **Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

This verse emphasizes that we are God's creation, His handiwork, and that He has designed a purpose for our lives.

God has already prepared "good works" for each of us to accomplish, His plans for us were laid out in advance. **THINK ABOUT THAT, AMAZING!**

This highlights that our lives have meaning and purpose, not by our own design, but according to God's divine plan.



## Don't Miss the Moment

You know, one of the biggest regrets that people have at the end of their lives are the missed opportunities.

Bronnie Ware is an Australian palliative care nurse who has spent a tremendous amount of time in the homes of her dying patients. She compiled her experiences in a book entitled ***The Top Five Regrets of the Dying***.

And what's interesting about Bronnie's book, is that it highlights that most of the things that we focus on in the natural course of our daily lives **aren't** what we will be thinking about in the final analysis.

Bronnie shared that most of the regret people had circled around missed opportunities with the people in our lives. In the end people wished they had worked less, stayed in touch with friends more, but it was the third regret that caught my attention, it resonated with me...it stated, **"I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."**

I believe this regret was born out of the memories of a life time of missed opportunities. Where they felt something deeply but didn't want to rock the boat, they didn't want to assert themselves, it was just easier to go with the flow. They Missed the Moments.

- **Live with Purpose and Awareness**
- **Seize Every Opportunity**
- **Seek and Align with God's Will**

But guess what friends, **we are still in the moment!**

By the power of the Holy Spirit you can choose to recalibrate... and live out Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 5 verse 15-17.

**Live with Purpose and Awareness**

**Seize Every Opportunity**

**Seek and Align with God's Will**

Church I have not perfected this in my own life. I am still a work in progress...but this is where I am aimed. This is a decision I have made, to live this way, to pursue this path from a young age. Because I want to be like Jesus.

One of the benefits I have had over the course of my life is to be the son of Mary Evans.



# Don't Miss the Moment

And if you know anything about my mom, you know that a defining characteristic of her life is that she has her Third Degree Black Belt in what we've been talking about this morning. She DOES NOT MISS THE MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY with the people that God has placed on her path.

I had the blessing and the benefit of growing up in a home with parents that were not ashamed of the gospel, at all. This gave me the confidence as a young man to be bold in my faith, and this is then a **legacy** that Kaely and I aim to pass on to our own children.

And so to begin to end this sermon, I'd like to invite my mother on stage for a mini interview.

I believe she has a wealth of wisdom to share about how she thinks about the opportunities that are available to us in our every day lives, and I hope you are blessed by this conversation.

**Invite mom up.**



# Don't Miss the Moment

Mom can you tell of a time in your life when you made the most of an opportunity to share Christ with someone?

Q: #1 - How has God prepared you to be ready to make the most of the opportunities you have to witness?

Q: #2 - What are you thinking about when you have an opportunity to share your faith?

Q: #3 - How do you process interactions when sharing Christ isn't well received?

Q: #4- If you could encourage the people here (congregation) with some perspective as they endeavor to make the most of their opportunities...what would you say to them?

**Pray:**



Don't Miss  
the **Moment**

### **On the Move Teaser Video**

Pastor Todd Set up. Coming out of video- "So important in the life of our church- challenge you to make it a priority to be here for all 5 weeks. This is so important that One The Move and how it relates to our lives will be in all of our small groups, children and students ministries. If you aren't in a group, jump into Front Porch which is a short-term community bible study so you can go through this study as well, you can register with info on the screen.

### **Prayer for the Nation**

Reminder our Prayer for the Nation gathering is tonight at 5:30 in the sanctuary. As America faces the election of our next president, it is vital that we as a Christian community seek the face of God. We will lift up our nation and this election to the Lord in prayer.

**Love In Action | Giving | Prayer Team | Benediction**