

Investing Time

Pastor Art Hunt

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Two principles that will help you invest time with eternity in mind:

- **The Priority Principle:** More important things should receive greater attention than less important things.

Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house. Proverbs 24:27 (English Standard Version)

- **The Planning Principle:** Planning helps realize the most gain for your investment.

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. Proverbs 21:5 (New International Version)

God's constant priorities and how to plan for them:

- **My relationship with God**

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (NIV)

"If anyone wants to boast, he should boast that he knows and understands me"
Jeremiah 9:24a (Good News Bible)

(See 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:9-16; Ephesians 6:17-18; Colossians 3:16; 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13)

- **The nurture of my family**

“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.
Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (New Living Translation)

- **Relationships with other believers**

(See Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13, 16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 3:23)

- **Christian service**

It was he who “gave gifts”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. ¹²He did this to prepare all God’s people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-13 (GNB)

- **My work**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings. Colossians 3:23 (GNB)