

ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

THE BIG PICTURE ... *Ephesians 5:16*

Mary David Fisher said, "The length of our life is less important than its depth." It reminds me of what musician Eubie Blake said on his one-hundredth birthday: "If I'd known I was gonna live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

We never know how much time we have, but the question of longevity isn't nearly as crucial as the question of intensity. Even though quantity is an unknown variable; quality must remain consistent.

I think of this now when I'm with my kids. They're out of the house, living in other cities, starting new lives. When we're together, it's only for a few days — sometimes only a few hours. When I see them, I forget about TV and my cell phone gets turned off. I want every second with them to count.

Paul used a phrase translated in the NIV as "*make the most of every opportunity.*" The King James calls it "*redeeming the time.*" How do you do that? It requires understanding two things:

1. Our lives fit into the Big Picture of God's plan.
2. The Big Picture is played out one frame at a time: one day, one hour, one moment at a time.

I'm sure your plate is already full. At any moment there are a dozen things you could be doing. The crucial question is: "What is the *best* thing I can do at this very moment?"

Seeing the Big Picture — knowing where your life is going — enables you to answer this question. It enables you to shape your plans day by day.

Determining the most important thing to do at any given moment isn't as easy as it seems. It takes practice, discernment and wisdom. And it takes a grasp of the Big Picture.

The pay off is that your days have meaning, and your life tells a story that brings glory to God. • **Steve May**

Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children's activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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