

QUESTIONS
WISE
PEOPLE ASK

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

Serving in the Lords house building relationships, friendships and serving at the same time. Lifetime friends are the reward. Its like any family. If everyone contributes, everyone benefits. We are the family of God. The time I spent with my boy's in sports, delivering papers, and on vacation in BC and the western USA will always leave us with very good memories. To this day I have a good relationship with my boy's. As parents we included our children in everything we did. I do not recall leaving home on a trip without them until they were 16 years old.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I would have spent more time in God's word with my children like my father did. I can not place enough value on what it meant in my life to have sat through family devotions every morning, 365 days a year to the age of 23 years, with the exception of the years I spent away at school. It is easy to think I had excuses for not reading the bible to my children, but I was to busy at work and in the church, and with the boys sports and other activities.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I have two responses. I became a Christian at University, and when I graduated, I proceeded to my chosen profession of teaching. I am so glad that I was privileged to be a teacher and instructor for 31 years, given the opportunity to help and influence young people for the rest of their years. It was very gratifying and has really given me satisfaction in having been able to serve God in this way. I was also so privileged to have been able to teach Sunday School in this church for many years. I have always said that the teacher learns much more than the students, so it was an important activity in my life, and one where I have no regrets about the time I spent preparing for those presentations. The 2nd part of this response is that after one year of teaching, God placed a heavy burden on my heart to be prepared to serve Him in my profession, and impressed me with the need to engage in an intensive time of study in His Word. As a result, we skimmed and saved in the first year of marriage and my first year of teaching so I could attend Bible School. We went to The Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland, Oregon, and I took their intensive, one-year-course for college grads. We went through the whole Bible with excellent professors, and I learned so much. It was the best year of my life.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I was so intrigued with computers and math when I was a young instructor at NAIT. I just loved writing computer programs to solve challenging problems. (I still do this from time to time.) I used to forget to go home at the end of the day because I was glued to my tasks at work, many of which were optional at the time. Now I wish that I would have had a better balance, spending more time with my family, and more time with the Lord. I have always been "on the run" and I don't regret having done the things I did that served others. I am very grateful to God for His Grace and to my wife for keeping our family together and lovingly functional. And do I have a regret? Yes! I regret spending about 1 year of my life playing those stupid computer games!

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For the last 6 weeks I have been doing prison ministry weekly. This is turning out to be an incredible ministry. There is probably in the neighbourhood of 50-100 inmates combined seeking. There are many decisions for Christ and a lot of the inmates are hungry for the Word. At the Remand center chaplain Bruce Walker is on fire for the Lord we are absolutely confident there is going to be revival happening soon. There are about 50 volunteers at the Remand We still need more. Also I have been doing a lot of evangelism one on one. Passing out the Gospel of John as well asking leading questions to further the process of sharing the Good News. Also focusing on pray because I know the more we love the Lord, Satan has got his daggers out.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I grew up in the Christian and Missionary Alliance and became a born again believer at a young age. I was in Christian Service Brigade and Young Peoples in that Alliance Church. Many of my friends, from that church, went on to become missionaries and pastors. I quite by accident started working for a bank. I was transferred at least a dozen times during the course of my career. I never believed the bank had any choice where they sent me but always believed that God was in control and wanted me where I ended up. My wife and I always got involved in the local church and I had the opportunity to serve on the board in many of those churches. To answer your question I was glad to have yielded my life to God and allow Him to use me in a number of different churches over the years.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I do wish that I had spent more time in the Word of God and more time making sure my children were well grounded in their faith. It is easy to get caught up in doing works and neglect your own spiritual growth.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I am glad I changed my time priorities due to significant events in my life. When my wife's cancer came back in December 2004 we were advised that it was terminal and they couldn't say how long she would have. As it turned out she went to be with the Lord only four months later on April 27, 2005. I made a decision in December to change my routine that included a few major things: I took a leave from my consulting work and minimized my time at a small company I owned so I could spend as much time with my wife. This allowed me to help her through the final stages, be with her as much as possible, including days and nights in the hospital by her side and enjoying what moments we had together. I was able to hold her in my arms when she had her final breaths and left here to be with our Lord. Like they say in the Mastercard ads "that was priceless", even though it was very emotional.

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We made Christmas special that year by driving up to Lacrete with our son and his wife to visit my other son and his wife and kids to have one last Christmas together.

What all of this was worth was, I had no regrets that I wish I would have spent more time with her. I knew I devoted as much time as I could to her and we experienced a depth of love some couples never experience. I also witnessed an incredible woman who truly showed Christ living in and through her to the very end.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I wish I would have had a better life balance early in my career. I was a workaholic and missed time with my family when they were young and it almost cost me my marriage. Had I not been saved by Jesus when I was 32 the answer to question 1 would likely not have happened.

After my wife's cancer diagnosis in 2003 and her treatments everything got back to normal. I wish that normal would have included a bit more focus on our time together in that year.

You never know how long you will have together with someone special like your wife, kids, grandkids, close friends etc.. Make sure you make time for them.

Just in general I have lived my life more focused on the journey not the end. I have tried to do things while I can because you never know when health may limit you or when your time is up. I don't want to come to the end and say I wish I would have done something.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

- Glad I spent time with kids. When younger we were senior high and junior high your sponsors. Volunteered in Sunday school most of our married life and still are in Sonburst.
- Spent time with our daughter and her friends and then granddaughter and her friends (even co-coached some of our daughter's softball teams)
- Spent time at family camp for many summers. Met missionaries there and got to know them.
- Corresponded with missionaries and supported missionary projects and still do.
- A part of corporate prayer meetings and still am, plus daily devotions and personal prayer time.
- Part of ladies' Bible studies.
- Entertained non Christians in our home.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

- Should have entertained more Christians.
- Should have been in couples Bible studies.

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1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I'm glad for all the quality time I spend with my family particularly my grandkids. It is a joy to build into their lives life lessons and share my faith with them. One granddaughter prayed to receive Christ with me one night when she had a sleep over with me.

- I'm glad for the time I've spent in God's word and prayer. I've loved to study deeper in, in depth Bible Studies. Also fellowship with other Christians.
- I'm glad for the time I've spent working in various children's ministries. Also for time spent building into other women's lives.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I had a stronger relationship with the Lord when my boys were growing up so I would have made more of a priority of sharing my love for the Lord with them. I think I'm doing a better job of that with my grandkids.

- I regret the time I've wasted worrying and stressing about things.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I am glad that I made my kids and grandkids a priority as far as participating in their lives by attending activities they were/are involved with. They know they were/are loved. I enjoyed my career with the government but since retiring I see the little importance it has in my overall life. Family and relationships is what really counts.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I have great regrets that I wasn't living for the Lord when I should have been. I wish I had been a better example to my kids when they were growing up. I love my grandkids which are gift and I want to show them God's overwhelming love.

It's not complicated what life is all about. God wants us to live each day responding with love to what he brings our way.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

In my late teens and 20's I had the privilege of being involved in many areas of ministry:

- Taught Sunday School with a group of friends at an elementary school in a lower socio-economic area of Edmonton;
- We provided gym/games nights 2 nights a week at the same school – ages 6 to 12 and 13 to 18 yrs. of age
- I was involved with doing various things with the teens in this group of children. i.e. took them to Youth For Christ every other Saturday night and had a social evening the other Sat. nights.

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- Almost of the children were very poor and some had unfortunate home lives. We collected clothing, etc. for some of the families and provided friendship and love to the kids that were living in difficult homes. I remember one boy running away and the police called from a town close to Lloydminster very late at night and a friend and I had to drive to pick him up; come home and go to work the next morning.
- I have wonderful memories of going out at night saying “Well Holy Spirit, where are you going to take us tonight?” And it would always be an exciting time.
- I was available to be able to respond to last minute needs like the Youth For Christ Director called me at work one afternoon to see if I would drive up to Whitecourt to show a YFC film because someone wasn’t available. He showed me how to run the projector on the sidewalk curb outside of the building where I worked.
- Very often sang in jail ministries on Sunday afternoons: RCMP ladies’ and men’s jails and then off to the City ladies’ and men’s jails
- Often was part of a team ministering in places like Hope Mission and several others
- In the summers friends and I would drive to small towns to take the Sunday Services when the pastors were on vacation.
- I was very involved in the music ministry of our church – choir, ladies trio, got up Sunday mornings to sing on a live radio broadcast at 7:30 a.m. before I went to teach Sunday School, sang in all music specials, TV specials etc.,

Our whole lives evolved around the church and church ministry groups. I haven’t listed everything but I guess in thinking about these things, I am glad I spent my time in those areas of ministry because I had no family responsibilities at that time. They were all areas of ministry for The Lord but they also ministered to me and caused me to grow spiritually. Seeing and experiencing the reality of how God changes lives, had a big impact on my own spiritual growth. The first part of Ecclesiastes 12:1 says: “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...” and that part of the verse is the part I always remembered.

After having a family, you can still be involved in ministries in the church, but they are a different because your focus is different and you don’t have the same freedom as pre-family. The ministry opportunities are the more structured ones – regular school board meetings, choir rehearsals, Sunday School, Bible studies, children’s church, children’s choir rehearsals, etc. Although just as satisfying, I am glad I had the opportunities I did pre-family.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

Interesting question. I have always said I will always be involved in ministry for the Lord knowing it will change as I become more chronologically gifted. I think a Christian never feels their life of ministry is over, the areas of opportunity just change.

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1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I am glad I spent time with my family doing fun things and also teaching them about Godly attributes and life experiences. It was worth every minute I spent. I only wish I had spent more time.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I had spent more time in prayer.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*) I am so glad that I spent time seeking a deeper relationship with God and growing in my faith. This faith foundation has been crucial to my being able to negotiate life. Have I always been successful? No, but with the Lord's help I see his hand has always been leading me, guiding me, teaching me. This help inspired and guided my husband and I in parenting our own children and children in care for 31 years.. Our hearts always responded to children and this has been worth everything. I am grateful for my time with my grandchildren and always need more of that. Time with our loved ones is the best time of all. I am glad I spent time at our cabin in the woods, I am glad I spent time with my dogs and, of course, friends and family!

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I regret not procuring more education in working professionally with children. I regret the time I spent worrying over matters that the Lord always had in hand. I do believe all prayers are answered ...we may not like the answer but it is always for our best. This I know to be true!

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

My best times have been in prayer with the Trinity (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) and serving and enjoying working WITH THEM on the mission field with the poor. It is the toughest thing I do but the most rewarding. Having constant fellowship together with the Trinity is so much worth it!!!!

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I would worship God in spirit more. Worshiping with other believers in the spirit is such a joy!!! I don't have any regrets of how I have spent my time because I'm always trying to walk and talk with God.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

As someone who became a Christian later in life, I would have to say spending time in God's word through bible studies has been so valuable to me. I am becoming much more grounded in my identity in Christ and have a deeper trust in my Father. This has taken time that was well spent.

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2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

My regrets would be that I majored on the minors especially in parenting and homemaking; thinking I had to be perfect. Thankfully God has gently and over time given me a new perspective.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

As with any young family, our jobs/careers take a lot of our time. In hindsight, I question why I felt I had to devote so much time to climb that 'ladder'. I wish I would have spent more time with my children, instead of having a babysitter in their pre-school years. And later, I wish I would have taken time from work to enjoy their activities with them, to be there when they were ill or just needed to talk, cry or laugh. I did many of these things, but I should have devoted much more caring time to my family.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I also wish I had known God as the loving Father (parent) He is, much earlier in my life. I wish I would have come to Him to nurture me, to give Him my fears and my worries and allow Him to fully embrace me with His love. I always 'believed' in God, but I did not know Him as a loving, caring, compassionate and forgiving Father. I didn't know how much He delighted in me, and in each of His children. I regret that I depended on myself and on earthly wisdom to 'limp' through life. How wonderful it would have been to have His guidance and His peace. Now in my older years, as I study His word more, I realize how much I missed by not going to Him with my questions and needs. Now, it's like I am cramming for my final exams. There is so much I am discovering through His word. Time is running out and there is still lots to learn and understand. Some of us do get wiser as we grow older and we all run out of time. There truly is wisdom in taking the time to involve your family in studying God's work and praying together.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

I'm so glad I spent time investing in our marriage. Now looking back on over 50 years of marriage, it is so worth every minute and every dollar we invested. We have been farmers almost our entire lives, and we worked together a lot as a family, which had a lot of positives.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I regret working as much as we did and not taking more time to do fun things with our kids and investing more in them.

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2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

My answer is “worrying about what people think of me”... the reality is that I don’t spend much time thinking about other people and what they are doing and they don’t think about me either... so what a complete waste of time and mental activity - and letting what I thought they thought influence me in any way... foolishness. Certainly not wisdom.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

With my granddaughters , I (we) have been so blessed to be in their lives since the day they were born, now four of them are teenagers they want to spend time with me. When you tell them about Jesus and show them His love when they are babies they are the ones who initiate the questions now.

Was it worth it... oh yes!

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I wish I would have told people I loved them more (it wasn’t that cool when I was younger) . It was easy with my children but not so much with other people. Wish I had spent more time with loved ones , we take for granted they will be around longer than they are. There are practical things I wish I had done... but these are my most important.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

As I reflect over my life the areas where I have such precious memories are time spent with family. We are so blessed to have raised our children in the church and our Sunday’s were spent together in morning and evening services. Also for the years we had our parents and spent endless hours as family and watching them enjoy our children. We loved time spent with extended family and siblings.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

One regret would be that I never appreciated nature or the beauty of Gods creation the way I do today.

I do regret not spending more time with our children and just enjoying the moments.

I do regret always being in a hurry... May years were spent always feeling like I was rushed.

I regret not stopping and just living in the moment.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

I am glad I had a job where I was able to spend time with my family.

This involved activities:

- In the church (Sunday School, Children’s Church, Christian Service Brigade, etc.).

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- In the community (Little League Baseball, Hockey, Peddle Pushers, etc)
- As a family (holidays, building things, events, etc)

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I wish I had spent more time individually with my wife and each of my six children, and by extension, their families.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

- Quiet time in meditation and prayer.
- Quality time with family, daughters and grandkids (having a meal with them, shopping, talking with them and asking them how you can be of help to them.
- Being there for someone who is struggling. It definitely was worth it.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

- More of what I mentioned in the first question.
- Wasting my time watching T V especially when tired.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

One thing I thought about today is... I wish my husband and I had, had more date nights! More time focused on each other. Your lives get so busy and we neglect that area of such importance.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

I am glad I was able to be a stay at home Mom with my four children, when they were growing up. It meant everything to me as they are all very close with me and the spiritual values they were taught are now a big part of their lives as they raise their children to love the Lord.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I wish I had put more time into my devotional quiet time with the Lord each day, instead of letting the business of daily life plus spending too much time on my computer/iPad get in the way.

"I have no regrets about how I have spent my time and in retrospect I would not change any thing in life, challenges and all. I am able to understand and help others through a lot of issues because of my experiences, good or not so good.

I had a word the other day. It was "kicked to the curb". I sense that this is for those in my age group (71

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years young!) who may be sensing that it is too late to begin with God. He does not think so! I had a picture on Sunday during worship of a tender very green sprout. How exciting to look forward to what He has planned for me and others in his care.”

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

I am glad I had family near where I lived and could and did spend a great deal of time with them. I was also fortunate to have had a business in which I was able to employ at different times all three of my children and later at a professional level 2 of my daughters and a son-in-law.

I am very happy with the time I have spent at the board level and on the street ministering to street people and generally less fortunate people and people with mental illnesses and addictions. I have learned first hand the following: There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it does not behoove any of us to speak about the rest of us.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

If I had it to do over again, I would have spent more time with my wife and children and less time at work.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (what was it worth?)

I love being quiet with the Lord, clearing my thoughts and my agenda. Listening to what he has for me that day. Reading the bible, applying Gods word and leading to my daily life. I've learned to Trust God NO MATTER WHAT !!!! And be glad in it

Nothing is more important then being with God It is the most rewarding, a blessing, up lifting, peaceful, joyful, than being with your caring Father.

Many years ago God gave me 1 Peter 6-7. Humble yourself there for under the mighty hand of God and he will exalt you in due time. Casing all your cares upon him for he careth for you.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (Or what do I regret spending too much time on?)

I regret serving my own goals and objectives. Trying and failing at doing it all myself without God, friends and family. I wish I had trusted God and listened to him sooner. God is so good and I am so thankful he never gave up on me. I regret not letting people into my life due to hurt, God has healed me of these hurts and I can now be my authentic self.

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1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I'm so glad that I spent the time (after I became a widow) in bible studies with my dear friend and bible study leader Ellen. This led me to be 'born again', baptized, and blessed 'beyond amazing'. Yes, it was so worth it, for knowing Jesus as my Saviour and my King, and for my salvation!

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I had spent more time with people (Ellen is one of them) that have passed away, and reacted to promptings of the Holy Spirit to connect with friends who are no longer on this earth.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

Time spent starting and growing a Christian School has been my biggest step of faith and deepest joy of serving the Lord with my life. My wife has been the greatest partner a man could have during my life. Now as a school trustee I continue to serve Him in the leadership role I have with EIPS.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I could have spent more time with my family but on the other hand had lots of great times with them all too on various trips and holidays which I made as a priority. Now I have 9 grand kids to build into their lives.

1. Where am I glad I spent my time (*what was it worth?*)

I'm glad that we had the privilege of hosting a Bible study in our home where we challenged each other to dig deeper into God's Word. The friendships we built during this time are lasting. It is a joy to look back on those days and see that our prayers for our teenage kids were answered as both of them are walking with Him today.

2. And what do I wish I would have done more of? (*Or what do I regret spending too much time on?*)

I wish I would have understood apologetics and applied it to my life and taught it to my family.