A Lost Opportunity

(Ephesians 5:16)

Introduction:
1. How many of have regretted missing out on opportunities in our lives.
2. How many times have we said, “If I only would have...”
3. (Ephesians 5:16) - Redeem the times.
   a. The term redeem can mean to “buy back,” or to “buy up.”
   b. In this passage it means to “buy up,” or to make the best use of our time.
   c. Ills. of army private on train and going through a tunnel.
4. Let’s consider the idea of “lost opportunities.”

I. Biblical Examples of Lost Opportunities
   A. Adam and Eve
      1. (Genesis 1:28-3:24).
      2. They lost an opportunity to live in a sin-free world.
      3. Factors to consider with Eve’s temptation.
         a. As far as we know, she is given second-hand information from Adam about what God said about the tree (2:17-19).
         b. Questions God (3:1).
         c. Misrepresents God (3:1).
         d. Contradicts God (3:4).
         e. Promises great things (3:5).
   B. The People of Noah’s Day (Genesis 6; 2 Peter 2:5).

II. Opportunities We Cannot Afford To Lose.
   A. Raising Our Children.
      1. (Ephesians 6:4).
      2. (Genesis 12:8; Genesis 22).
   B. Serve the Lord.
      1. (Mark 9:1; Galatians 6:10).
      2. How many people can be changed by kindness and goodness (Romans 2:4).
   C. Speak for the Lord.
      1. (2 Kings 7:9).

Conclusion:
1. Don’t miss the opportunities that God puts before you.
2. In his providence, he does open doors for us (Revelation 3:8).
3. Make yourself available (Isaiah 6:8), and walk with your eyes open (Ephesians 5:15), and buy up the opportunities before you (Ephesians 5:16).