



***Margin: Finding  
Balance for  
Overloaded Lives***

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***Finding Time Margin  
Wednesday Night Bible  
Study***

**April 20, 2011**



# Our Goal

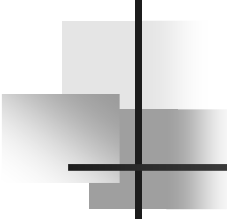
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- **To communicate a *biblical philosophy* for bringing balance to overloaded lives**

# Margin...



- ...is having the physical, emotional, financial and time reserves to respond to a God-given opportunities to be a blessing to yourself or someone else.



# Four Areas

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- **Emotional margin**
- **Physical margin**
- **Financial margin**
- ***Time margin***

**In our culture today...**

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- **...we rarely take time to enjoy a moment. We are trying to milk time for everything we can get.**

# Henry David Thoreau

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- **“Sometimes in a summer morning, having taken my accustomed bath, I sat in my sunny doorway from sunrise to noon, rapt in a reverie.”**

# What we say about time

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- **No time**
- **Lack of time**
- **Out of time**
- **Not enough time**
- **Very busy**



# Parkinson's Law

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- **Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.**

# Murphy's Laws

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- **Everything takes longer than you think**
- **Doing it the hard way is always easier in the long run.**
- **The length of a minute depends on what you are waiting for.**

# Another Adage

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- **You don't have time to do it right but you always have time to do it over.**

# **No Financial Margin**

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- **Time margin is eroded because people don't have financial margin so they get a second job.**

# **Time Stress and Friends**

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- **Everyone needs personal time to just let the dust settle, evaluate how life is going and plan for the future.**

# **Time Stress and Friends**

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- **Everyone needs family time, especially with children. God did not design any of us to raise ourselves.**

# **Time Stress and Friends**

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- **Everyone needs sharing time...the opportunity to be nurtured and built up by caring relationships.**



# The Illusion

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- **The concept of *time management* is an illusion. You cannot stop or start time. You can only manage yourself.**

# Our real problem in...

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- ...trying to manage our time is not a matter of a lack of time but a lack of *clarity*.

# **Our Challenge...**

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- **...is focusing on the things that you do that actually have impact or add value. You should stop doing those things that do not add value.**

# Spending or Wasting?

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- **Will spend six months waiting for traffic lights to change**
- **Spend one year searching through desk clutter looking for a misplaced object**

# Spending or Wasting?

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- **Will spend eight months opening junk mail**
- **Spend two years calling people who are not in or the line is busy**

# **If you don't know...**

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- **...where you are going with your life...if you are not sure of the key things that you need to be doing to get there, you will never have enough time.**

**If you want to find...**

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- **...more time margin in your life, you first have to determine what time means to you and how you spend your time.**

# Once you have...

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- ...identified those things that are important or valuable, you can take the following steps...

# **Expect the Unexpected**

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- **Nearly everything takes longer than you think it will. If you want breathing room, leave some extra time in your schedule for the unexpected.**



# **Learn to Say No**

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**Saying no is not just a good idea. It is absolutely necessary. If there are 100 good things to do, you can only do a few of them. No is still a complete sentence.**

# Turn off the TV

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- **The average adult spends over 30 hours each week watching TV. No other single effort will buy you more time margin.**

# Fewer Activities

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- **There are major focus areas of our lives...family, job, ministry, and personal development. Everything else is extra**

# **Simplicity and Contentment**

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- **Buy less stuff, free your life of clutter, and try having fewer possessions.**

# **Less Technology**

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- **End your love affair with the latest toys and gadgets.**



# Plan Ahead

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- **We tend to be very short-sighted. It is good to have a five or ten year plan. Otherwise, our lives are little more than connect the dots.**



# Thank God

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- *When you have more than one thing that you want to do, but schedules conflict, thank God for protecting you from yourself.*

# Enjoy the Snow Day

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- **When God gives you a snow day, take the time to enjoy it with friends and family. When the power goes out, get somewhere, sit down and enjoy the moment.**

# Get Less Done

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- **If we are doing the right things, it is perfectly alright to get less done.**

# **Make Memories**

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- **Don't rush things. Learn to enjoy anticipation, and when the activity is done, do something to remember it.**

# **Give Wisdom a Chance**

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- **Wisdom is generally slow. Even if you are tempted to make a hasty decision, take your time for the clarity to come.**



# Stand in Line

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- **Seek out the longest line in the bank or super market. Try not to fret while waiting in traffic. Smile more. Talk slower.**

# **Create Buffer Zones**

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- **Schedule appointments with imaginary people or schedule time to walk around the mall for an hour. Give yourself a break.**



# **Be Available**

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- **Once you have created time margin in your life, then make yourself available for kingdom work.**