

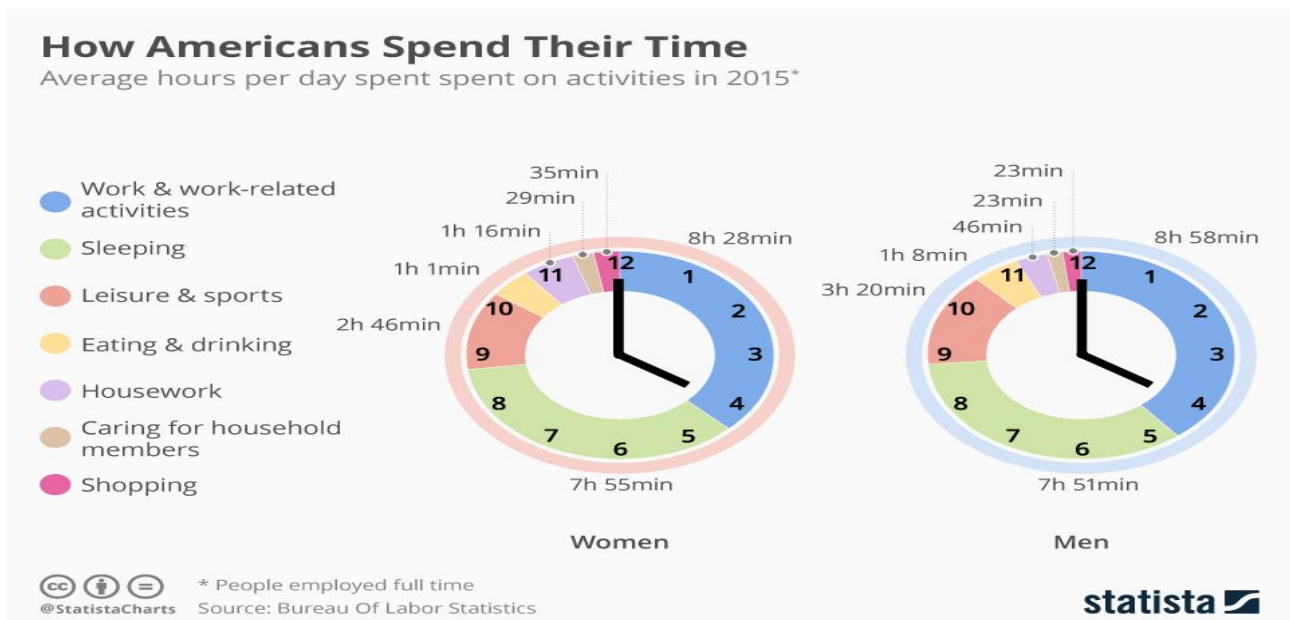
LIFE OUTSIDE GOD'S GARDEN! **GENESIS CH4:17-26**

RE-CAP!

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past (creation) to the work of God in the future (salvation)

HOW DO PEOPLE SPEND THEIR ?



IGNORING THE GIVER IN BUILDING A CITY! V17-18

Who did Cain meet? Genesis Ch5:4 “The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.” Abraham also married his half sister, Genesis Ch20:12, as at that time there were no ethical or genetic reasons for not permitting this. However, by the time we come to Leviticus Ch18:9, God forbids the Israelites to marry their sister!

Let's have a look back at Genesis Ch1:28 “And God blessed them. And God said to them 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”.

And Genesis Ch4:12 “When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” What is Cain doing and what should he be doing? He is building a city, contrary to what God told him to do as part of his punishment! **Cain continues to fill his time, doing his own thing without any thought for God whatsoever!** Remember 1 John Ch3:12 “We should not be like Cain,

who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous."

IGNORING THE GIVER IN BUILDING THE FAMILY! V19-22

There have now been 7 generations including Adam on earth – Adam, Cain, Enoch, Irad, Methujael, Methushael and Lamech and along with building a city other cultural activities without God, have started up!

1. V20 Jabal a nomadic herdsman!
2. V21 Jubal a father to the musicians!
3. V22 Tubal-cain a craftsman in industry!

These activities start and grow, but without God. We are told that it is not until Seth has a child, named "Enosh" that people start calling out to God and start worshipping publicly!

Not all cultural activity can be wrong, as long as one focuses and involves Jesus:

1. Gen Ch13:1-6 - Abraham as a nomadic herdsman
2. 1st Sam Ch16:18-23 - King David an accomplished musician
3. Exodus Ch31:1-5 Bezalel + Oholiab - a skilled craftsman
4. Psalm 76:2 + Psalm 48 - God makes a City

So, when we focus on putting God first, and use His gifts, giving Him the Glory for the generous Giver He is, we can be used to build His Kingdom and sinners can be saved!

IGNORING THE GIVER IN BUILDING SAFETY! V23-26

Lamech has been told something about his ancestor Cain, who was banished by God from his birth family and cursed and it resonates with him. Not in a good way, but in a self centred sinful way! So Lamech takes two wives and boasts to them about how he killed a young man for wounding him v23!

In order to secure his future safety, after he murder's a young man, Lamech boasts again about revenge, should any person take his life. A revenge, not like the grace that God showed Cain, who complained to God about how his punishment was too much to bear! Lamech boasts that the judgement for taking his life would be 77 fold!

Has anybody else mentioned 77 times? Jesus in Matthew Ch18:21-22, regarding forgiveness! You see Jesus lays down His life in order that we as sinners can receive forgiveness of sins! So that God doesn't judge us! Why, because He thought of us, and not Himself!

APPLICATION

1. How are we filling our lives with the emptiness of life "outside the Garden of God"?
2. Cultural activities can be intrinsically wrong when Jesus is not at the centre of the reason for participating in them! How do we ensure that Jesus is the main reason for our participation?
3. In what ways might we be guilty of concentrating so much on God's gifts that we neglect God Himself?
4. What advice would your Church give a young Christian who intends to make a career in the Arts?
5. In what ways do you see people around you filling the emptiness in their lives that was designed to be filled by God?