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As Now, So Then

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AS NOW, SO THEN

As a student in college I began to realize that life will be full and that allocation of time and energy must be selective according to a set of values and priorities. There were things I was excited about doing--there were books to read and skills to learn and theories to practice--and there just wasn't time enough to do them all.

I was so busy as a student, carrying eighteen hours of academic work and participating in co-curricular activities of various kinds--school paper editor, yearbook business manager, student pastor, class president, Youth Conference leader--I was tempted to say, "After all this--after college--I'll read that book, practice piano, apply this new truth to living."

Then one day something I read said, "As Now, So Then." If I couldn't discipline myself now, and schedule time now to read that good book, I certainly would not find more time, rather less, after graduation. The Spirit sealed this truth to my mind and heart. I made a placard of the words As Now, So Then, and put it over the door of my room. Every time I went out, I read As Now, So Then. I began to learn the meaning of living life day by day, and I began to abhor procrastination, the real thief of time. This slogan has been one of the anchor-points of my life.

Self-discipline, allocation of time, use of energy and strength are the warp and woof of values and priorities. One's values will guide the choices, and one's priorities will determine the schedule.

The relation between the two will govern the balance between and among work, ministry, relationships, recreation.

All work and no play may make Jack a dull boy, but the fun and games attitude toward life which is so characteristic of society today will result in exhaustion, boredom, and the despair of meaninglessness.

The sports craze of our time, the disposition to "do my own thing," to enjoy life by "having fun":--these are determining where our resources are allocated, how we spend our time, and whether or not we make each day, each hour, significant.

Each of us is a steward of life, health, time, money, and energy. What we do with our values and how we arrange our priorities now determine the quality of our living then. We cannot put off till tomorrow what we should be and do today. Each tomorrow becomes a today, and procrastination will steal our future unless we seal it today. Even our spiritual growth must be motivated by the realization that "As Now, So Then."

- Milo A. Rediger
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