

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Best Use of Our Riches**      Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time      Monday,  
October 17, 2016    8:15 AM    Eph 2:1-10;    **Lk 12:13-21**    St. Ignatius of Antioch,  
bishop and Martyr    (How can we make best use of the time we have, which of course we  
really never know how long it is?)

Both readings are about life in the world as we normally see it. The first reading from Ephesians talks about people living in this age according to the standards of this age and driven by the whims of what he calls the flesh. That simply means human nature in its physical dimension. **Human beings think about physical well-being.**

Well, the same with the gospel. Here is this man storing up all kinds of stuff for his retirement, providing for his physical well-being but forgetting about who he really is, or you could even say what he really is. So these are **the more substantial questions of life. Why are we living? What are we living for? How can we make best use of the time we have, which of course we really never know how long it is?**

Now one of the remarks that is found quite often in Scripture is that when a person dies that person doesn't know **to whom all of his riches goes.** Now you might say, "Well, I know where my riches are going because I have a will." Apparently in the ancient world it was more up for grabs. And that was one of the basic reasons why it was foolish to pile up riches because you had no way of controlling who got them when you died. And that he repeated over and over again in Scripture to a point that I find it rather odd, because **the real issue is not whether you know where it goes, but rather what it is doing for you.**

We need money to live. **God wants us to enjoy life within reason. We can do good for others, but that all takes purpose and planning.** We have to actually think about what we are doing. The people in today's readings, both in Ephesians and in the Gospel of Luke, don't think. They don't think about the purpose of their life. They don't think about why they are doing what they are doing. They are just letting themselves be led, as it were, by their own dreams or their own imagination or their own desires.

So both these readings are just saying **we need to be alert. We need to be aware of who we are. We have to be trying to make sense out of each day as if it were our last.** Then we will live wisely.