

Creating A Sense of Urgency

- When we obeyed the gospel there was a sense of urgency. We knew we were lost and wanted to be saved. Led us to obey the gospel ASAP.
- Over time this sense of urgency rises and falls depending upon events and circumstances.
- If the cares of this world choke the word even to a small degree, it weakens.
- When someone dies or some other terrible event scares or moves us it rises
- If we are wise we will monitor and look for ways to increase that urgency.

The Passing of Years

- I have used the final day of each year to help us reassess our sense of urgency, motivation, zeal and the fruits we have to show for them.
- Like an hourglass, the sands of time are moving and the final day of life draws nearer.
- We don't know the day of our death.
- But each year it draws nearer with the eternal destiny of each of us still open to God's judgment.
- If it were to come today and you knew it, what changes would you make?

Paul sought to create Urgency

- *And do this, **knowing the time**, that now it is **high time to awake** out of sleep; for **now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed**.
12 **The night is far spent, the day is at hand.**
Therefore let us **cast off the works of darkness**,
and let us **put on the armor of light**. Rom 13:11-14*
- Are we always aware of the time?
- Are we sleepy?
- Wake up!! Our salvation is closer now than when we first believed. There should be zeal

At Some Point We Must Assess

- *Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.' 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Eph 5:14-17*
- Are we Awake
- Walking circumspectly (watching our walk)?
- Buying up opportunities
- Understanding what the will of the Lord is?

Jesus Expects This sense of Urgency

- *Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Lk 12:35-37*
- We must do all that we can to keep ourselves feeling and working in this way.

Paul's Own Urgency

● *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Cor 9:24-27*

● With this standard how do we measure up?

● Are our emotions and will attuned to this?

Paul's Own Urgency

- *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12-16*
- By this standard are we mature?
- Are we following his example?
- Would we call our walk with Christ pressing on?

Make me Know my End

- *LORD, **make me to know my end**, and what is **the measure of my days**, that I may **know how frail I am**. 5 Indeed, You have **made my days as handbreadths**, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly **every man at his best state is but vapor**. 6 Surely **every man walks about like a shadow**; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them. 7 And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You Ps. 39:4-7*
- At the end of each year...A time to reflect/consider

Teach us to Number our Days

● *For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. Ps 90:9-12*

● How do we number our days? Each birthday, each year, each passage:

● Youth- young adult- middle aged- senior- dark days

● Where are we now? Are we aware?

The Wisdom of Ecclesiastes

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Eccl 11:9

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": Eccl 12:1

But if a man lives many years And rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming is vanity. Eccl 11:8

Another Year Gone ... A New Year...

- Before we leave this year need to assess
- Are all sins repented and removed?
- *When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Ezek 18:25-29*

Many Years Passing ... Still All is Well

- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4:16-18*

Final Reflections To Carry Away

- *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1Tim. 6:7*
- *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, Heb. 9:27*
- *For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Eccl. 3:1-2*
- *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2Pet. 3:11-12*