

A Sober Beginning to 2021

- *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. Selah 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*
- Knowing our end. If we can do this, everything else will fall into place.

Every New Year

- A Time of Reflection and meditation:
- Where we have been and what we have done?
- Where we are going and how we will get there?
- How quickly we arrived where we are and how much time left to get where we want to be?
- Time to decide: Do we need to reset our priorities?
- Where do we want to be next year?
- Time is fleeting and we are running out of it!
- *And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment; Heb. 9:27*

We have One Life to Live

- There are NO second chances. If we want to be remembered as David, we have to live as David:
- *I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after My heart, who shall do all My will**... For David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep, and was laid unto his fathers, Acts 13:22, 36*
- *"Write: '**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and **their works follow them.**" Rev. 14:13*
- Are we living to “die in the Lord?”

Our Days are Numbered

- *we **bring our years to an end like a sigh.** 10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; **they are soon gone, and we fly away.** ... 12 So **teach us to number our days,** That we **may gain a heart of wisdom.***

Ps 90:9-12

- If we are numbering them we have a heart of wisdom.
- With each passing year we must we must allow God to teach us to number them.
- **THEY ARE SOON GONE!!!**

God Knows Our Days ... We Don't

- *Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And **in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.** Ps 139:16*
- *But God said, '**You fool! This very night your soul is required of you;** and now who will own what you have prepared?' Lk. 12:20-21*
- *you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. **You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.** Jas. 4:14-15*

God has Given Set Times for Things

● For **everything there is a season**, and **a time for very 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

● For we **brought nothing into this** world, and it is certain **we can carry nothing out**. 1 Tim 6:7

● And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job 1:21

● There is only one thing to take with us. Our faithful works that will testify of our faith. Heb 11

The Example of Paul... Urgency

- *Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but **I press on**, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing (I do), forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. 14 **I press on toward the goal unto the prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12-14*

As Many as are Mature ...

- Therefore **let us, as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, **join in following my example**, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil 3:15-17
- Are we mature? Only if we have that mindset.
- If we have joined we are acting maturely.
- If we have not yet joined... It is time to begin.

Every one who lived before us...

- *Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1-2*
- There are no Exceptions. Are we following the great cloud of witnesses Or those in 1Cor 10:

How Paul Looked Back

- *For which cause I suffer also these things: yet I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Tim 1:12*
- *For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: 8 henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing. 2 Tim 4:6-8*

Miscellaneous Scriptures to Consider

- Seek 1st Kingdom Mt 6:33
- Do it with all your might Ecc 9:11
- Continue steadfastly Acts 2:41
- Choose you this day Josh 24:14-15
- Redeeming the time Eph 5:16
- A steward must be faithful Cor 4:2
- Zealous of good works. Titus 2:14; 3:8
- Joshua at 40, 80, 110 We will serve the Lord
- Solomon at 40, 80 When he was old...
- Hezekiah Did not give back according to benefit

Worthy Goals for 2021

For when **by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. Heb 5:12

Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in (your) virtue knowledge; 6 and in (your) knowledge self-control; and in (your) self-control patience; and in (your) patience godliness; 7 and in (your) godliness brotherly kindness; and in (your) brotherly kindness love. 2 Pet 1:5-7

Once we set our Goals ... Don't Forget

- Make Plans ... Set Goals ... Assess Progress ... Keep Notes ... Write down Goals...
- *“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deut 6:8-9*

The Goal of All Goals!!!

- *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 Jn 3:1-3*

The Goal of All Goals!!!

- *For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, (that it may be) conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself. Phil 3:20-21*

The Race Set Before Us

- *Know ye not that they that run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? Even so run; that ye may attain. 25 And every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they (do it) to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 1 Cor 9:24-25*