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“FUNNY HOW TIME SLIPS AWAY”

December 31st, the end of the year. Three hundred and sixty-five days, which breaks down to 8760 hours. Parsing it down further it comes to 1063995231.6 minutes. It is as Nathaniel Hawthorne stated, “Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind.” Would that we could retrieve those precious hours, but sadly they have flown past us. Now we sit on the precipice of a new year; ripe with hope and promise. It seems to have crept up on us ever so quickly, or as George Will noted, “The future has a way of arriving unannounced.”

As we are on the cusp of a new year, it is likely safe to say that most have taken time to contemplate things about themselves they are determined to change; or goals to reach in the new year. But perhaps what might be of more beneficial is to look back and see how successful you were in reaching those goals. *“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Personally speaking, looking back on the year and what I had hoped to attain, it is apparent that I came up short. Maybe you can relate to that as well, but that doesn't mean we join one another in a “pity party”. Rather it is honest recognition and the opportunity to do better in the coming year. Art Buchwald famously said, in a twist to the opening of Charles Dickens' “A Tale of Two Cities”, “Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got..” Tie this in with what Paul penned in Ephesians 5:15-16. *“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”* Redeem the time. Make the best use of each day.

Okay, so perhaps the past 365 days hasn't been all that stellar, for whatever reason. Each day is a new beginning; a fresh start. Who knows what a day will bring? Notice the first verse in Proverbs twenty-seven. *“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day will bring forth.”* Jesus on His part said succinctly, *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”* (Matthew 6:33-34)



Admittedly it is daunting to think of the year past and the year to come, but if we can embrace the fact that we only have today in our hands; and the need to make the best use of that time is paramount. What is past is past, we learn from and move forward. What awaits in the future, quite frankly we have little if any control over it. Adopt the mind set expressed by Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

The author of the 90th Psalm seemed to grasp the reality of what each one should do with time. *“So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.”* (v12) Make the most of today, it is all we really have; the time within our grasp. Keep focused on the goal and building a life in harmony with God. *“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’”* (Jeremiah 29:11) God has granted us time, let us each determine to use it wisely. (wbe)