

HOW TO LEARN TO NUMBER OUR DAYS
9-18-16

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalms 90:5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

Psalms 90:6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

Psalms 90:7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Soon we will enter the fall season of the year. The leaves will turn, the temperatures will drop, and then winter will be upon us sooner than you can imagine. The seasons remind us of the brevity of life. A while back I preached a message on the seasons of life. In that message, I used the seasons as an illustration of our life. I think the principles of that message are worth repeating this morning.

Psalms 90:12 says .. teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

God has to open our eyes to the brevity of our lives. The Bible says we should learn to number our days. The other day we walked outside and it was 8 p.m. It was dark. I looked at my watch and turned to my wife and said, "It's 8 o'clock, and it's dark. What happened?" WHAT HAPPENED is fall is coming soon.

The seasons are a picture of our lives, and the years of our lives are but seasons. Do you know the Bible breaks your life down into 4 seasons?

The Bible give this breakdown of seasons..

Leviticus 27:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons shall be for the LORD by thy estimation.

Leviticus 27:3 And thy estimation shall be of the male from twenty years old even unto sixty years old, even thy estimation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary.

Leviticus 27:4 And if it be a female, then thy estimation shall be thirty shekels.

Leviticus 27:5 And if it be from five years old even unto twenty years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels.

Leviticus 27:6 And if it be from a month old even unto five years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male five shekels of silver, and for the female thy estimation shall be three shekels of silver.

Leviticus 27:7 And if it be from sixty years old and above; if it be a male, then thy estimation shall be fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels.

0-5 (spring) Lowest estimation. This is where we prepare.(5 shekels)

5-20 (summer) This is where we sow. (20 shekels)

20-60 (fall) of a person's life, highest yield & harvest (50 shekels)

60 - (Winter) This is where we fall to the ground and sleep. (15 shekels)

This is the value given based on these average ages; and these average ages are given for a person's estimation of work potential.

In the message I preached entitled "THE SEASONS OF LIFE," I likened these 4 estimations to the 4 seasons of life.

1. SPRING 0-5 ... When you spring to life and develop. You are born and grow. Formative.
2. SUMMER 5-20... When you sow and plant. These are the school years where you learn, sow, and prepare for life's work.
3. FALL 20-60 ...These are the years when you harvest what you have sown. Most productive years for income.
4. WINTER 60 and older ...This is when you live off of what you harvested in the fall. The estimation or temple tax was based on the age of the person based on where they were in their lives.

In our church we have people who are in all seasons of their lives—all age groups.

The Bible exhorts us to think soberly about our lives, number our days, and apply our hearts to wisdom.

TEACH ME TO NUMBER MY DAYS

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Notice it says Lord, TEACH US to number our days.

I. WE MUST BE TAUGHT BY GOD THAT OUR DAYS ARE PRECIOUS AND LIMITED; THEY ARE TO BE VALUED AND MADE THE MOST OF—IN ORDER TO NUMBER OUR DAYS.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

i.e. to make the best use of our days.

The most precious thing that we possess is time.
We have been given the precious stewardship of our time.

When Moses wrote, in Psalm 90 "teach us to number our days" he was declaring that men do not naturally do that. Why else would he say, "PRAY AND ASK THE LORD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS ...".

We need divine enlightenment to be taught to number our days. We, by nature, really don't get it.

A few weeks back I had a man who came to interview me about the days I played in a rock & roll band with a fellow by the name of Danny DeGennaro. Danny had made a note in his memoirs that in the 70s he worked with two of the best musicians in the Levittown area, Frank Bissol and Ronnie Butko. He kind of suggested that this band was probably the one that should have gone the farthest of all the groups he played with. I believe he was right. There was no doubt in my mind that we would have done great things in the world back then. But God enlightened my heart and mind in 1974; and, by His grace, He taught me to number my days. This could only have happened through God opening my eyes.

You see the Psalmist says, TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS. The natural man does not do this. I talk to people all the time who are dying in hospitals. I recently went with Jack McKeeby and talked to an 84-year-old man about eternity, and I could tell he really did not get it. If he did, he would have been begging me to give him some answers from the Bible about eternity. Why are people not flocking to hear what the Bible says about eternal life and how to prepare for eternity in the same way that they flock to bars and nightclubs? The reason they are not is because we need to be taught to number our days, and only God can do this.

So in 1974 God let me see through the portal of time and foresee the seasons of my life. I saw that I could gain popularity in the music scene. I saw that I may "MAKE IT," whatever that means. Maybe our band could have a hit record or play some big time concerts, have some popular CDs or records back then. But then I saw that I would get old, and the drugs and alcohol were going to take a toll on my body. You see, you can't be in that music scene and not drink and do some drugs, and I probably would never have a good marriage. None of my musician friends did. I would not have a family, and I would probably die in my 50's. So I would have to enjoy my life while I could and then die young. I would probably die alone, though successful—and maybe even rich.

MIND YOU—I WAS 21 when I was thinking through all this. And why was I thinking through all this? GOD WAS TEACHING ME TO NUMBER MY DAYS. However, many other people I knew were not thinking this through. DANNY for one.

Then on October 20, 1974, I went to a little church and was challenged to surrender my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. That Sunday I received Christ and decided to lay down my life for the Lord. What possible gain could you receive in this world to make rejecting Christ worth anything? Only God can reveal this to a person.

We, by nature, choose to fill our lives with things that will not last. Time is so limited, and those who succeed in life learn to make the most use of their time.

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

What possible achievement in this world could you desire and trade in for eternity? TRUTH IS, if you lived to be 100 and gained wealth, fame, and notoriety, would that be a better trade for eternal life?

Yet people still are seeking some purpose in this life apart from Christ. How foolish.

SO IN 1974, GOD TAUGHT ME TO NUMBER MY DAYS.

And now, 42 years later, Danny was shot dead in a bad drug deal.
My buddy Ronnie Butko is 69 and suffering health problems.
I have been the pastor of the Elkdale Baptist Church for over 33 years.

In the winter of my life I can say, I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE. I have run the good race. Soon I will finish my course and am looking forward to meeting the Lord some day!

PRINCIPLE NUMBER ONE.

WE MUST BE TAUGHT OF GOD TO NUMBER OUR DAYS.

In light of this truth consider the following:

1. *SINFUL MEN DO NOT NATURALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS TRUTH*

Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

The natural men I have witnessed to (and talked to) do not readily acknowledge that their days are numbered.

HERE ARE THE NATURAL MAN'S REACTIONS TO TRAGEDIES OF LIFE:

- Why is this happening to me? (when they get sick and wind up in the hospital etc.)
- What have I done to deserve this?

Men keep raising the "prime of life" factor to a higher figure as they get older ...

I recall after I got saved and then got married in 1975, I began to look for a way to make a living. I tried teaching piano lessons for a while, but that was slow going. I recall an old piano tuner

coming to tune my piano. He was in his 80's. Suddenly it occurred to me that maybe I could learn to tune pianos. I asked him to teach me how to tune. He did, and one afternoon after we had worked on some pianos in a school, I bought him lunch.

At the restaurant I tried to witness to the man, and he began to tell me how he had just suffered some physical setbacks. He had a heart attack. He said to me, "I don't understand why it is that in the prime of my life I have to now suffer with bad health."

I was a 22-year-old man at the time, and here I am looking at an 84-year-old man who just said to me that he was in the prime of his life?? I thought to myself, "When does he think he will be an old man?" I shared the gospel with him, and he said, "Don't call my house— my wife will get upset with me if she knows I am teaching you how to tune. She will think I am training someone who will steal my business." I told him that I wouldn't be able to go tuning with him the next week because I was getting married. He looked at me and shook his head and said, "Bad mistake. Look at her mother. That is what she is going to look like in 30 years." I said, "Well, that's not that bad." When I came back from our honeymoon, I picked up the newspaper, and my tuner friend's name was in the obituary. He died while I was away.

Here is an 84-year-old man who needed to learn to number his days—and in 84 years he had not learned that lesson yet.

Psalms 49:6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

Psalms 49:7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

Psalms 49:8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

Psalms 49:10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

Psalms 49:11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

Psalms 49:12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

How is it that men, in their hearts, think they are going to live forever. We plan as if we will be here tomorrow.

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

2. THE LORD, THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, TEACHES MEN TO NUMBER THEIR DAYS!

A. HE TAUGHT THE LEVITES THAT THE SONS OF KOHATH (AGES 30-50) WERE TO DO THE WORK OF CARING FOR THE TABERNACLE.

Numbers 4:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Numbers 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers,

Numbers 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Numbers 4:4 This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things:

Numbers 8:25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more:

Numbers 8:26 But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.

The Lord expects us to realize that there is a window in our life where we can effectively labor with vigor, but there will be a time when we will depend on the strength of the younger brethren.

B. THE SPIRIT OF GOD SHOULD TEACH US THAT EVERY DAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD UNDESERVED:

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

It is by God's Mercy that we are not consumed. We need to realize that it is *by His mercies* that we are not consumed.

In other words.. we have this sentence upon us.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we say.. teach us to number our days, we need to realize that we are under this judgment. In other words, for each of us there is an appointed day when we should die.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

I John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

As we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

THIS IS MERCY. Mercy is not something we deserve; it is just something that He gives us, undeserved.

EVERY MINUTE YOU ARE ALIVE IS MERCY.
EVERY DAY HE LETS US LIVE IS MERCY.

Not only that—we not only deserve death physically, but we deserve death spiritually. But again, when we come to Christ and ask for mercy by His payment for our sin on the cross, we get what we do not deserve. We get eternal life.

IMAGINE THAT HE HAS GIVEN US A DELAY OF THE SENTENCE OF PHYSICAL DEATH ...

HE HAS PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE HIM.

Why do we complain?

When we have aches and pains.
When we get sick.
When we wind up flat on our back facing the inevitable.

Why does the “prime of life” keep shifting for us?

HOW OLD IS OLD?

You often have heard that the average life expectancy in the early 1900's was about 47, but that was because of how many children died of horrible diseases and even in childbirth. So when all was averaged out ...

The fact is—each day that the Lord gives us in this life is because of mercy.

We do not deserve anything.

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

What we do deserve: Death physical.

What we do deserve: Death eternal and spiritual.

II. WE MUST LEARN NOT TO COMPLAIN, BUT PLEAD FOR HIS MERCY.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Note what Jeremiah says about our Lord's mercies -

LAM 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

LAM 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

God is merciful to those who ask for mercy.
He is tenderhearted and will forgive our sins if we confess them

PSA 18:25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

PSA 18:26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

1. CONSIDER THE IRONY OF THIS COMPLAINING:

Here is the irony of it all:

A living man is complaining.

Irony of it all is that here is a man who should be dead who is not—yet he complains.

It is not the dead who complain.
It is the living who complain.

How ironic it is. We have a man who should be dead complaining that he is alive.

2. AND WHAT IS THIS LIVING MAN COMPLAINING ABOUT?

He is complaining about the punishment of his sins.

We get sick. Yes, but were still alive. Why do we complain?

We have aches and pains. Yes, but we are still alive.

We are like that old piano tuner friend of mine.

He is 84 years old and still in the prime of his life,
complaining about the inevitable.

III. WE MUST BE TAUGHT HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OUR DAYS.

1. A PERSON VOID OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD WILL REASON THAT A GOOD LIFE IS A LIFE FILLED WITH PLEASURE AND LEISURE.

When it says, "Teach us to number our days," it means, "Teach us to make the best use of our days and to invest them wisely." An unsaved man knows in his mind his days are limited just like a saved man—the only difference is in how he decides to invest his time and use these days.

I Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Those who do not know the Lord choose to eat, drink, and be merry; and seek a life of comfort and leisure.

GOD CALLED SUCH REASONING FOOLISH:

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THIS PARABLE IS THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

LUK 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

LUK 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, said unto them, Occupy till I come.

LUK 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, We will not have this man to reign over us.

LUK 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

LUK 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained pounds.

LUK 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

LUK 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.
LUK 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.
LUK 19:20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, I have kept laid up in a napkin:
LUK 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.
LUK 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:
LUK 19:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at coming I might have required mine own with usury?
LUK 19:24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.
LUK 19:25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

Note: Two different parables, but a similar scenario. In the one each servant is given a different sum based on his abilities and brings forth fruit accordingly. In the second parable each servant is given the exact same amount, but again, bring forth different gain according to his abilities. The point of both parables is that the Lord expects us to invest our lives and what He has given and entrusted to us for His Kingdom.

2. THE BEST WAYS WE NUMBER OUR DAYS IS TO LEARN HOW TO INVEST OUR TIME IN THINGS THAT WILL COUNT FOR ETERNITY

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS THAT WILL LAST FOR ETERNITY?

The Word of God:

I Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The Souls of men who need their souls delivered from hell and destruction:

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Mark 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Knowing the judgment of God, Paul said he could wish himself accursed in order that his fellow Israelites might be saved.

ROM 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Any works invested to promote these goals, teaching men to obey the word of God, and teaching men to be saved are worthy life goals.

That work may involve supporting missions, pastoring, being faithful to your local church. etc. But also that work involves discipleship.

IV. WE MUST BE TAUGHT OF GOD TO APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM.

We need wisdom in investing our lives so that we don't waste precious time.

THREE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DO FOR ETERNITY:

INVEST IN:

The Word of God.

The souls of men.

Any works invested to promote these.

1. WE NEED WISDOM TO FOLLOW THE BIBLICAL PATTERN IN PURSUING THESE THREE AREAS.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

A. GOD ORDAINED THE CHURCH TO HELP YOU TO BE MORE FRUITFUL IN THESE AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD, WINNING SOULS, AND DISCIPLINING OTHERS.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

2. JESUS WAS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF INVESTING HIS LIMITED TIME WISELY.

Jesus knew he had 3-1/2 years to accomplish all that He accomplished, and in that time He established the foundation for His church that even Satan himself could not destroy.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus spent most of His time working with His 12 disciples; the multitude ministry was not His primary focus. Nothing wrong with working with large crowds as long as we don't lose focus on the future leaders.

So many Christians are throwing away opportunities galore with their own children and those who have potential to be spiritual leaders in the future.

Baptists have been worried more about reaching the multitudes than their own children, and because of that our churches have become weak! We run after this one and that one and neglect those who can be our future leaders.

In those 3 1/2 years Jesus wisely chose not to do everything Himself, but invested most of His time training his Apostles to carry on when He left.

In the story of Elisha we note how he received a double portion of the Spirit and carried on a greater work than Elijah, his mentor. After the showdown with the prophets of Baal failed to bring revival to the nation, the Lord commissioned Elijah to work with Elisha.

Better to leave behind someone to carry on in your footsteps and do a little less in your life than to do great things in your life and let the work die after you.

BACH and HANDEL's music of the Baroque period was a music of order and discipline. The musicians who wrote in those days left behind a legacy that lives on today. Their work was never fully appreciated in their day and most of these great musicians died never being appreciated. Yet today they left behind great masterpieces.

So we must ask the Lord to teach us how to make the most of our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

Consider:

WE MUST BE FED BEFORE WE CAN FEED OTHERS.

WE MUST KNOW BEFORE WE CAN SHARE.

WE MUST DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING BEFORE WE ASK OTHERS TO DIP FROM THE WELL.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

MOSES SAID, "TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS SO WE MAY APPLY OUR HEARTS TO WISDOM."

We need wisdom and then we need to know how to make practical application of that wisdom to everyday life.

1CO 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

3. A WISE CHRISTIAN WILL APPLY THE WISDOM PRINCIPLES OF THE WORD OF GOD TO HIS LIFE IN SEEKING TO BE FRUITFUL FOR THE LORD.

It is wise to slow down and do less at first so that you may accomplish more in the long run.

OFTEN WE NEGLECT THOSE CLOSEST TO US WHO HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL. HOW OFTEN PARENTS NEGLECT TO DISCIPLE THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

How often men especially fail to do things with their children because we think they hold us back. Instilling in them abilities and skills is more important than getting a job done. It is better to teach your daughter to do the dishes than have the dishes get done well. It is better to train

your son to work than have the work get done perfectly. So too, this is the case in spiritual matters.

Why does the Lord choose to use us to preach the gospel? Could not the angels do a better job?

Choose to focus time on the ones that God has given you.

CHILDREN - #1. MOST OF THE APOSTLES WERE RELATED TO EACH OTHER (GALILEANS).

David's mighty men - many were relatives, brother's children, sister's children, etc.

Joab and Abishai, were sons of David's sister.

God often uses natural kindred and closeness to establish natural bonds that can strengthen spiritual bonds.

CHILDREN
COUSINS
BROTHERS
NEIGHBORS, ETC.

If you can leave behind two people to do the work of the Lord after you are gone to heaven, your work will perpetuate.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

What works will follow you to heaven???