

MISSION MARION

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***From The
Missionary's Desk***

The year 2020 was interesting to say the least. Covid-19, the presidential elections, and natural disasters seemed to have dominated our lives. In spite of all that's going on, most of us seem to be very busy people. We're always in a hurry; we walk fast, talk fast and eat fast. After we eat we stand up and say, "Excuse me, I've got to run."



So here we are at the beginning of 2021. I wonder how we'll do this year? Will we be as busy? Will we make any better use of our time? When this year is over, will we be looking back with joy or regret? Will we be looking at the future with anticipation or with dread?

Ephesians 5:15-17 says, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." I feel that in this passage Paul presents some important lessons that we need to consider for this new year.

1. First, we must be careful how we live because our time is limited.

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

That adds up to be 70 or 80 years for an average life span. For some young folks, 70 or 80 years seems like an eternity. I can remember when I thought 40 was ancient. But not anymore. It's all rather relative, isn't it? Relative to the age we are now and how much time we have left. The Psalmist tells us to number our days so that we will develop a heart of wisdom. So if I number my days, if I live to be 75 years old, I have about 6,570 days left. But wait, I don't have a guarantee of even one more day to live. In fact, the Bible tells us not to count on tomorrow because tomorrow may not come. All we have is right now. So our time on this earth is valuable because it's very limited.

2. Second, Paul tells us to make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.

Jesus said that Satan is a robber and a thief, and one thing he tries to rob from us is our time. Just think of the time wasted on sinning. Think about the time wasted worrying about the consequences of the sins we've committed. Satan is a thief and a robber. But it's not just sin that makes demands on our time. Sometimes even good things can make demands. Sometimes we get so caught up in the here and now that we fail to deal with the eternal—the things that will last forever. We live in a day of overload. We're overloaded with commitments, possessions, work and information. There are so many demands on our time, so many good things that need to be done. But there are just 8,760 hours in this year. We want to make the most of every opportunity, so what do we do?

3. Paul says, "We are to understand what the Lord's will is."

So, what do you think God's will is for you in this new year? Do you think He wants your mind so saturated with worries and anxieties that you can't think spiritual thoughts? Do you think He wants your calendar so crowded that you don't have time for the important things? What do you think is God's will for you in this new year? Let me make a few suggestions for us to consider.

First of all, we need to establish our priorities. When we begin to establish priorities we have to decide where God stands in our life. We must ask ourselves, "Who or what is most important in my life?" I'm hoping all of us can say that our relationship with God is most important. If that's the case, then at the top of our priority list for this year we can say that this relationship will affect our decisions, our scheduling, our relationships and our whole outlook on life. We must pray, read God's Word, spend time with family, work and support our church. We must establish priorities and stick with it.

Second, we must learn how to live today. The two greatest enemies of time are regrets for things we did in the past and anxiety about what will happen in the future. Many of us are living either in the past or the future. Many live in a game called, "I wish it were." I wish it were next week or next month or next year. Or, I wish this or I wish that. Someone once said, "Life is what happens to you while you're making plans to do something else. That's true isn't it?"

Another year has come and gone and a new year stretches before us. God help us to make the most of the time. God help us to remember this year that it's not about me, it's all about Him. God help us to use the 8,760 hours of this new year the wisest way we can for Him and His glory.

God Bless You Always,

Bro. Keith

Phil. 4:13

*"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? I am making
a way in the wilderness
and streams in the
wasteland."*

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)**MCBA Pinewood
Derby**

Winfield First Baptist Church

February 28, 2021

Weigh-in 1:00 - 2:00

Races begin at 2:00

