

Number Your Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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see Psalm 90:10-12

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 . . .

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

So teach us to number our days!

On the calendar, the days of each month are numbered. We go by these numbers quite often in our daily life.

Well, God is concerned that we take the time to consider our entire life in numbering our days. We need to realize that we're not coming back this way again; we're only traveling this way once.

When we come to the end of our journey upon this earth, that's it! There's no turning back.

The days that we have already lived have gone by - and we'll never see them again.

Therefore we have to realize that we need to learn how to number our days. That is to say, we must redeem the time, and use our days as wisely as possible.

This life is a short journey, and the end comes for every one. It's ahead for each one of us. Therefore we should be careful to see that each day is redeemed.

How much time do you and I have left down here upon this earth?

Take a good look at your life. If you can say you've lived a long time, you're confessing that you don't have much longer to go. Each year is that much closer to the end.

This is why God warns us in His Word to redeem the time.

How earnestly we ought to stop and number our days! How earnestly we ought to apply our heart unto wisdom, preparing ourselves to live each of the days we do have left to His honor and glory!

We each face one of two deadlines - either we leave this world through death, or we leave at the coming of the Lord.

Either way, we must be sure we are ready.

None of us knows which will come first for us. We have no way of knowing whether we are going to live out our years or not - because the Lord's coming may cut us way short in years.

This is why it is so important to daily give ourselves over to the will of God, letting each day count for eternity. We should give ourselves over to wisdom, allowing God to have His way in us and through us.

Our works in this life will have a great bearing on our future position in the kingdom of God.

Some people aren't going to have too high a place - simply because they didn't do much for the Lord in this life.

Many will wish in that day that they had spent their time down here a little more wisely. They'll regret that they spent so much time on things that only took them away from serving the Lord with all their hearts.

Now, there are a lot of things to understand when we consider the use of our time.

No matter how hard we try, we just can't fit more than twenty-four hours into a day. Neither can we fit more than seven days into a week.

We may not be able to change time - but we can certainly change the use we make of the time given to us.

We can apply our hearts unto wisdom, that our time might really be used wisely.

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 is trying to give us a description of what life is like. He likens it to a puff of steam.

When the steam rises from the tea kettle, you only see it for a moment before it vanishes and is gone.

And so it is with life. You can visibly see it before your eyes - and you can just as visibly see it disappear right before your eyes. We are here today, and gone tomorrow.

This is why we must use each day that is given us as wisely as we possibly can use it.

1 Peter 1:24

For all flesh is as grass, and
all the glory of man as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth,
and the flower thereof falleth away

We are here today -
but where will we be tomorrow?

Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and now am old;
yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,
nor his seed begging bread.

The psalmist was nearing the end of his life and looking back. He testified that during his lifetime he never saw the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Now, you may be young. You may feel there is a lot of time ahead for you. And you may be right - but it is important what you do with the time that you do have. You want to redeem that time wisely, and not waste the years that you may still have in this world.

On the other hand, you may be old, and your life has passed by without your doing much for the Lord.

Well, you can't go back and make up for those wasted years. But you can wisely use what time you do have ahead of you. You can make every moment count for Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them

While you are young, it is time for you to wholeheartedly give yourself to the will of the Lord. Take time to get down to business, and devote yourself to doing that which is pleasing in His sight.

If you don't give yourself over to serving the Lord in your youth, you'll find you have no lasting pleasure in the things you go after.

You will be so miserable that you won't have any desire to live another day.

Now, one of the greatest ways to please God is to start winning lost souls. Use the opportunities that are before you while you have the chance. Start to make each day of your life count for eternity.

If you take time to consider the Lord in your youth, you can mold and fashion the whole course of your life.

Don't leave God out of your plans and ambitions. Seek out His plan for your life.

Know that God has a prescribed plan for each life. He has a master plan for you to fulfill - which no one else can fulfill.

If you plan your own life without considering His plan, you may totally miss His perfect will for you.

You must be willing to give yourself over to seeking out the perfect will of God for your life. As you do, you will find it being unfolded right before you.

A lot of people have utterly missed God's real plan and purpose for their lives simply because they feel they have a choice in the matter. They feel they can choose to do something else for Him, rather than that which He wills for their lives.

The Bible teaches very strongly that a man is called in one hope of his calling.

Do you think that God would have two hopes for your life? and if you don't make the first one, at least you'll make the second - or, if you don't follow His choice, you can make your own.

God's plan and intent for each of us is very clear. His desire and purpose is that we serve Him with all of our hearts.

He wants us to enter in and fully do His will that He has prescribed for us individually: nobody else can do it for you.

I don't believe that God has a second-best for our lives. Some say they are doing His **permissive will**. They know what His perfect will is - but they prefer to do His permissive will.

In other words, what they are saying is that they believe God has two wills for them - and they can pick and choose which one they prefer to follow.

I don't believe that. I believe God has one will for each life, individually - and we are called in one hope of fulfilling that will.

I Corinthians 9:16,17

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

He knew God had chosen him for a particular work, and he wanted to do that with all of his heart.

Paul knew there was misery and trouble ahead if he didn't obey God. He knew there would be woe upon his life if he didn't wholeheartedly follow the call of God.

Trouble and misery abide at many homes because people are out of the will of God. Many lives are in turmoil because of disobedience.

We find examples of this in the Bible. Jonah, for example, was a man who decided he was going to have God's second best.

Jonah decided he wasn't going to do what God had told him to do. He wasn't going to go to Ninevah, where God had called him to go, but would take a ship to Tarshish.

Off he went, sailing in the wrong direction, making life miserable, not only for himself, but for everybody else who was on that ship.

When you're out of the will of God, nothing goes right. You can't really be blessed.

How can you expect to be blessed when you're out of God's will for your life. You can't really have a smooth running life when you're doing your own thing.

While Jonah was out to sea, he thought he was running away from the Lord - but God blew up a storm that tossed that ship about.

The mariners didn't know what to do! They expected the storm to break up the ship at any moment and destroy them all.

They also knew that somebody on that ship wasn't right with God. And they prayed to find out what was wrong.

Isn't it strange that the one who was at fault had no concern at all.

In the midst of that awful storm, he was down below, sound asleep.

Jonah didn't seem to care that he was out of the will of God. Yet his disobedience was causing misery to all those who were with him in that boat.

Now, if your house is upset all the time, it may be that you are out of the will of God.

There may be some area where you're not fulfilling God's real purpose in life - and that may be the very reason why you're not finding His rich blessing abiding upon your house.

Jonah 1:11,12

Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Jonah knew that the only way things would get straightened out was for the mariners to get rid of him.

But they didn't want to kill him! They were more concerned for his life than he was.

Finally, in desperation, they threw him overboard - and the storm immediately ceased!

You know, life can be one continuous storm. If you are out of the will of God, you will find yourself being tossed to and fro. And the only way to stop the storm is for you to enter into God's will for your life, and stop resisting.

There is only one place where you will ever get back into the will of God - and that is right where you turned aside.

Jonah had to first pray himself out of the tempest. He was down in the belly of the whale, with seaweed wrapped around his head - and down there he began to consider what he'd done. He began to think of the call of God he had run away from - and he renewed his vow.

Down there in the belly of the whale, Jonah determined in his heart to fulfill the call - if he was given another chance.

When Jonah cried unto God from the whale's belly, God heard his cry - and caused the whale to spew Jonah out onto the shore, right where he belonged - right in the will of God.

You see, if you get out of the will of God you can expect the dealings of God will rock your ship. You can't just go your own way without being miserable, and making everyone around you miserable, too.

The real peace of God only comes when you surrender yourself totally over to the will of God. You must purpose in your heart that you are going all the way with Him.

You don't have a lot of time to fool around, now. You don't have time to choose whether or not you want to be in the will of God.

You need to redeem the time, and dwell right in the very center of His will for your life.

Many of you will probably go right on doing what you want to do. But, one day, you will find out how sorrowful your decision was.

You will see what you could have had if you had only followed Jesus with all of your heart.

If you know what God's will is for your life, and you have strayed from it, go back to where you left off. Go right back to where you laid it down.

It will be right there waiting for you - exactly where you stepped out of God's will.

Why not step out of the boat - and into the call of God?



Romans 12:1,2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed
by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good,
and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This text was addressed to the body of believers. The word *brethren* refers to the church, not just men in general. It is telling us the way we can find out what God's will is for our life.

First, we must give ourselves unto God.

God wants you and me to offer ourselves unto Him. It's our life that He wants, that we present our bodies a living sacrifice.

Now, there is no use bringing your body and presenting it to God - unless you want to clean up and live for Him with all of your heart.

We must present a sacrifice that is holy and acceptable unto Him.

We won't find out the will of God if we are wallowing in the hog pen. We won't find His will by living in sin and ungodliness.

God won't reveal His perfect will to anyone until he presents himself holy and acceptable unto Him.

[. . . which is your reasonable service.](#)

So many argue with God about going all the way with Him. They fight against holiness and righteousness.

There is an argument down in their hearts because God has dealt with them about the way He wants them to live, the way He wants them to talk, the way He wants them to dress.

Yet God has said that it is our reasonable service to present ourselves unto Him - in holiness.

God has never made unreasonable demands on anyone. What He asks of us is very reasonable.

After all, He gave His Son to redeem us out of our sins.

He gave us eternal life. Therefore, He has every right to make a few demands of us. And we ought to respect those demands.

Don't let your mind get twisted to where you refuse to take godly instruction.

When you live for the devil, your mind gets so warped that you can't think right. You begin to think things like, *God is making too much of a demand on me.*

Hey, it is reasonable to come to God with a heart that is broken. It is reasonable to have a broken spirit, to present yourself to God as a living sacrifice.

Our heads get warped when we listen to compromising preachers who tell us that holiness isn't necessary. We find ourselves out on a limb like Jonah was. Our lives get all upset, and we have no peace.

If this has happened to you, you need to seek God to straighten your thoughts out.

Don't put it off. You don't have too much time to get on the right pathway.

And be not conformed to this world.

Many of God's people think they have to conform to the ways of the world. They don't understand that God has called them to live a separated life as His peculiar people.

Realize that we are called to be different. We're not to go along with the ways of the world.

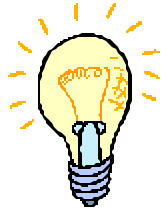
When we conform to this world, we become alienated from God, and we find ourselves living in opposition to Him.

When our natural minds are controlling our lives, our minds are at enmity against God. Only the spiritual inner man can really come into conformity with the will of God.

**But be ye transformed
by the renewing of your mind.**

Do you know what that word *transformed* means? In the field of electricity we use transformers for most everything, taking a weak current and transforming it up to real high energy.

And when Jesus gets hold of your life, He makes much more of it than it ever was. He transforms it - so it can shine brightly.



What are we to use in order to be transformed? We are told we are transformed by renewing our mind. In other words, by beginning to think according to the terms of God's Word.

We sometimes find our minds in rebellion against the ways of God. We don't always want to go all out for Him.

There are areas where we might not want to be transformed. There are things we find we are not willing to lay aside.

But if we will yield ourselves completely over to the Lord, we will gain much. We will be able to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God for our lives.

And we will have learned to number our days, so that they might count for eternity.

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