

The Challenger

Ministerial Staff

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Reaching people, touching lives, and growing together in Christ's love.

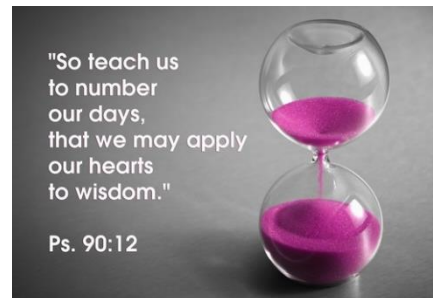
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Did you know that in God's Law, He commanded different ceremonies to be performed to mark the passing of weeks, months, and years? It's in the part of the Bible that sometimes makes our eyes glaze if we're not paying attention; but on the days when we ARE paying attention, I think it's wise to ask, "Why would He do that?" Why would He make it to where we're supposed to care about whether or not another month goes by or whether we're entering into a new year?

Perhaps what God was working to inspire was what Moses was talking about when he wrote, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Ps. 90:12)," or what Paul was referring to when he said, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:15-16)." In both the Old and New Testaments, we see this call to wisdom by paying attention to the passing of time while pondering what we're doing with it. Then Paul added the motivation, "Because the days are evil."



How does evil get its ugly claws into most of us Christians? When we've been living with Jesus for a while, we're not as often sucked into the worldly temptations of lust, drunkenness, or vile forms of debauchery. The more we mature in our faith, we usually get better at sniffing those traps out before we fall into them. Not always, but often. Our greater downfalls have to do with what we're buying with how we spend our time. Too often it becomes true that out of nowhere, we're hit with the unsettling realization, "A whole other year just passed me by – again! What in the world did I do with it? I only have so many years in my life's piggy bank and I just spent another whole one, so what did I spend it on?" Our danger zone we live in is when Satan can so easily distract us with doing what's good and acceptable, we don't pay attention to what we should really be investing ourselves into – namely what's great and eternal.

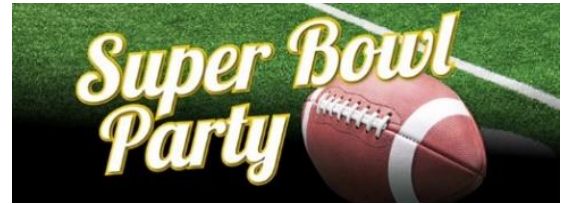
Our evil days have plenty of distractions to offer! One of my most challenging experiences as a pastor is when I'm doing a memorial service for someone and in preparation, I ask the family's opinion on how their loved one spent his life. Sometimes, it's a WONDERFUL conversation where the family gets excited relating all the ways that the person poured out his life for the sake of others and for God's kingdom and they can see all the legacies that were left in the loved one's wake. Other times, I sadly get nothing more than, "He loved fishing," or "He really loved his crossword puzzles," or "We had some really fun vacations." Even after pressing the issue, that's the best loved ones can come up with. There's nothing inherently wrong with fishing, crossword puzzles, or vacationing, but they're lousy measures of a life.

Since we're towards the beginning of a new year, what are you going to be pursuing this next year? What are your goals? You're going to invest another year of your life into something, Lord willing, what is it going to be? Will it be something good, or something great? Will it be something acceptable, or something eternal? Wisdom teaches us to number our days and make the most of our time.

In His Grip,
Pastor Fred

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Super Bowl Party! Join us in the Activity Center at 4:00 pm and bring snacks to share. The game will be on for those who want to watch. We'll have tables set up at the back for those who would rather play a board game instead. (Bring your favorite game to play if you'd like!)



Deacon Ordination will take place during the morning service on February 9.



GriefShare will be starting Sunday, February 9 at 4:00 pm in room 104A in the Education Center. If you're dealing with the loss of a loved one, no matter how long it's been, GriefShare can help you deal with your loss and begin to heal. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video Seminar with Experts, Support Group Discussion with Focus, Personal Study and Reflection. Please see Pastor Ted for more information and to sign up for the class.

Men's Breakfast Saturday, February 15 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the Activity Center: Join with other men to hear an uplifting message from Manny Hernandez while enjoying a yummy breakfast!



Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction Fundraiser Sunday, February 23 at 5:30 pm: Come for a free spaghetti dinner (donations accepted) and dessert auction on Sunday, 2/23/20 at 5:30 pm. Come ready to bid on your favorite dessert or

just bid to bring the bid up on someone else's favorite dessert! There will be small desserts available for purchase as well. It's always a fun and yummy night! Donations of desserts are needed. Please let Pastor Ted know if you can bring something.



Hope Pregnancy Center is in need of baby food vegetables and fruits at this time. Drop your donations off at the church office. Thanks!

Dear FBC Family -

Thank you for the card and gift cards. We appreciate all of you. It has been an honor and privilege for almost 17 years to serve our Lord and Savior in helping to lead Worship at FBC.



As God moves us on to new adventures we pray that all of you, our FBC family, will continue to grow in your walk with God.

We love you all.

Hugs,
Bob and Kathy Schlesinger

As my time serving in the church office draws to an end, I want to say thank you to everyone for being so kind and gracious to me. I enjoyed the "working" life for a little bit, but I happily hand it back over to Jeannie Jacobs, who has decided to return. I know that we will all welcome her smiling face back to the office! I look forward to having more time to get back to quilting again but I'm happy to have had the chance to help out and serve in this capacity.

In His Service,
Lisa MacLean

