

THE BREVITY OF LIFE

Summer is ended. This is the Labor Day Weekend. School is back in session. How time passes, it seems just like yesterday we began the year 2008 and now it is almost nine months old. This past week I was in Sam's Club and noticed that all of the Halloween displays were out.

When we are young, time seems to take forever to pass. It is a long time for Christmas to arrive. School seems to drag on for ever. It seems like it will be forever before we are old enough to get a driver's license!

The truth of the matter is life, even when it is long is really very short in the overall scheme of things. Notice what the Bible has to say about the brevity of life:

1. *"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 4:14).
2. *"For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding"* (I Chronicles 29:15).
3. *"Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity"* (Psalm. 39:5).
4. *"For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told"* (Psalm 90:9).
5. *"Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me"* (Isaiah 35:12).
6. *"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope"* (Job 7:6).
7. *"Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good"* (Job 9:25).
8. *"He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not"* (Job 14:2).
9. *"For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth"* (Psalm 102:3).
10. *"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away"* (Psalm 144:4).

Yes, even at its best time is short, note again what the Psalmist states: *"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"* (Psalm 90:10).

What should this teach us then about our own lives. The Psalmist expressed it best: *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12).

May we seek to uses our hours, our days, our moths and our years wisely.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron' sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Rachel Fitzpatrick was sick and unable to be out Wednesday evening.

Ron Wilson was in Alabama working on Wednesday.

Sister Grimsley is out of town for a few days.

Our next Pot Luck meal will be on August 31 after the evening services. An Italian theme for the food has been suggested. Plan to stay and eat with us.

24 Years in the 1st Grade

We live in an age of education. Even retired people go to college. With all the emphasis on education, we need to re-emphasize Bible study. People spend a great portion of life preparing for a profession in this world, which at best will be used for less than a century, and then spend little time preparing to live for eternity.

It would take twenty-four years to complete the first grade if public schools met only as often as Sunday Bible School (if no classes were missed). Suppose one came to class only half of the time-48 years in the first grade.

At the same time, if a person spends twenty minutes a day on a given subject for a period of twenty years, he can become an authority in that field. Think what twenty minutes a day over twenty years would mean in Bible knowledge.

Are you a spiritual first grader? See you in Bible class!

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With school having recently resumed, it is a good time to re-emphasize the importance of Bible study. We need not only to attend classes but we need to do "homework" as well. We need to study the Bible at home (K.J.C.).