

2025 Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin'... Into the future. Facing the new year... Living your life in the light of eternity

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil". Ephesians 5:15–16

This past Friday, January 10, 2025, was supposed to be a day of celebration, did you miss it? Did government workers get the day off? Was there banners unfurled? Did the news carry any information on where the parades were being held, or where the best places were to celebrate this day? No?

What am I talking about? How could I have missed it? I still have Christmas and New Year's Chex mix I haven't eaten; where's the party? Why didn't the church tell me about this? You didn't know; hum? How could you not know? Andrew talked about not making resolutions last Sunday; I agree with him. You might say, "he did?" "How'd I miss it?" A holiday; another holiday in January and no one told me."

Friday, January 10, 2025...Officially known as Quitter's Day."

Perhaps you are one of the millions who, on or before New Year's Day, set goals, resolutions, things you wanted to stop and were going to use the magical date of January 1 to start anew; perhaps it was a big thing like controlling your eating, losing weight, being nice to your spouse, honoring your marriage vows, being more of a parent, being a better worker or an owner of a business, to stop driving so fast through town, to be more conscious of what you throw out your car windows, of smiling more or talking less or a bazillion other things; yep, you were going to use that mystical date, January 1 to reset, start at zero and work up and...

If you are like 80% of all those who set resolutions on January first or shortly before, you've already given up on those resolutions by January 10th. Thus we have, Quitter's Day. Oh, you may argue with me after the service. "I AM NOT A QUITTER!" Fine, you're not a quitter. Did you make resolutions? How's that going for you? Or, "You don't know how hard it is to keep my resolutions." Oh I understand fully the victim's excuse; I've known about it since watching the Three Stooges in, "Disorder in the Court," when Curly explains to Moe and Larry, "Don't blame me; I'm a victim of circumstances!"

But reality is the foundation of what I speak and write: 80% of all those who make resolutions on or near January 1st will have broken those resolutions and given up by January 10th. Congratulations America, congratulations world, we have an official day set aside for those who fail in what they have set out to do. BTW... there was going to be a Quitter's Day parade in Yuma, the city council had decided and resolved to bring remembrance to January 10th but...for one reason

or another...they failed to follow through with their resolve! (FYI: that's a joke friends; a joke!)

What's wrong with this?

Oh, I can think of about a dozen things wrong with our making plans and testifying and making proclamations about our intentions and then, within 10 days of our starting date throwing in the towel.

There is something wrong with setting goals and knowing you're not going to keep them. Isn't that sort of dishonest? Is there something wrong with your intention and failing in the completion of the intention? You tell me. Hear the Scripture: "To him that knows what to do and does it not, to him it is sin." That's what the Bible says. And it's not about a one day, beginning of the year resolution, the Bible talks about a lifestyle of facing truth and obedience that must come from the reality of truth. I have a problem, within myself and with the whole "resolution" thing. My problem lies in the fact that these resolutions are made on or near a day that we give over to drunkenness, partying and debauchery. Is this the best way to enter a fictitious New Year/New start? There's no reason behind resolutions.

I can give you all the reasons that I am in agreement with Andrew and what he said in the message last week about this topic but here today, I'll boil it down to this, it's simple, fast and powerful: Why do we fail in resolutions on New Year's Eve or any other day of the year? It's because we, believers and followers of Jesus Christ are failing to live our lives in the light of eternity. We want to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, and build our lives on that which we see and hear and walk among and yet give so little of our thoughts, our prayers, our standards of conduct to that which is ever with us; it was with us before time began and it will be with us when time, as humans count and measure time ends...eternity.

Oh, we might think a bit about eternity...at a funeral; we tear up when we hear the song, "Go Rest High on that Mountain," or, "I Can Only Imagine;" or, for us old timers, "Beulah Land, how I'm longing for you; and someday, on thee I'll stand; there my home shall be eternal; Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land." Yes, that has brought many a tear to many an eye that would not conceive of weeping.

But more often than not; we don't think of eternity; here and now is where many lives are set and it runs counter to that which God has placed in each heart. Paul wrote: ""Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil".

What I have written on these pages, what I speak about this morning is bigger than Quitter's Day or setting resolutions that we break, or all the mess we've got ourselves into in this nation and around the world; It's bigger than the fires in California, or the bone-chilling weather out east or the dryness of our prairies; each mega-event, each disaster or sorrow or pain, or death or illness or a variety of so many other things, each event or circumstance that is thrown our

way has to, they must, humble us and cause each of us to think of one of two things:

What more can happen?

How do I live my life, in the midst of a world that seemingly is turning itself upside down; how do I live my life when all foundations of human existence are seemingly being shaken; how do I shape my thoughts when there is so much thoughtlessness and chaos around me; how do I live my life in the light of eternity? THESE are the questions for each of us, whether we believe in Jesus or not; it doesn't matter. If you are breathing right now, if you can put your hand to your heart and feel it beating, if you have eyes to see and ears to hear, see and hear what the Spirit is saying to the church and the sinner. What more can happen? A lot more. Man as a sinner can do a lot more damage to humanity; nature can convulse itself without notice. Where you center your mind, your heart, your life, centered without eternity can create hopelessness and danger now and into eternity.

First, let's look as to how we measure time... ·

Eternity... He knows our name before we were ever born.

- Will you marry me?
- You're having a baby?!!!
- Dear, it's time to go...NOW!!!
- The Baby has all her toes and fingers!
- It's your turn to get up.
- It's your turn to change the diaper!
- The baby's crawling!
- The baby's walking!
- Don't touch that!!
- The baby's talking!
- Don't say that; where did you hear that from?
- The baby's first day of pre-school.
- The baby's first day of Kindergarten.
- First grade.
- He's graduating.
- He's in college now.
- She's going to get married.
- It's our first grandchild.
- Daddy's retiring tomorrow.
- How can anyone figure out Social Security?
- Can you speak up?
- Kid's, Your Mother and I have to talk to you.
- It doesn't look good.
- He died in his sleep last night.
- The funeral is set for this Thursday.
- Dearly beloved we are gathered here on this sad occasion...

- Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
- Eternity.....

Sunrise, sunset; Sunrise, sunset; Swiftly flows the years. One season following another, laden with happiness and tears. From Fiddler on the Roof, 1905

Fives Foundations for this new year, 2025:

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: Understand this word emphatically: There is a season, there is a time, it doesn't last forever; eternity does!
2. Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom". Understand: the shortness of life. Don't put off salvation to a more "convenient" time; NOW is the day of salvation! As a Christian, use your life to gain wisdom and to walk it out in ministry; a ministry of witness, service, love and compassion.
3. Proverbs 6:10–11 "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit". Understand: You have not been saved to simply sit in a pew, week after week, expecting to be fed pabulum, being burped, having someone change your spiritual diapers. The only ones who qualify for that position are babies. You are NOT a baby; The work ethic is biblical. If you can work, work. If you are disabled and can't work, there's work for you to do! We'll work till Jesus comes! Amen!
4. Colossians 4:5-6: "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time". Understand: The Greek word for "redeem" means to "buy back," to "ransom," or even to "rescue". You are to walk your life out before pagans, sinners. The Gospel is NOT to be contained in this building, you are the Gospel to those that are without. We see you; how do non-believers see you. Walk it out! Don't wait until a funeral and think: "I should have talked to him or her. Redeem the time.
5. Ecclesiastes 3:11:" He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end." Understand: The Bible emphasizes that time management is based on eternity. It is important because life is short and Eternity is forever. We don't know everything; we walk by faith. We should make the best use of our time. Television, video games, checking Facebook, TikTok, what is a time waster for you? Right now, you know what it is. If it wastes time, deal with it.

10 things to live each year, each month, each day, each hour, each minute, each second by:

1. The buck stops here! I am responsible for my past and my future by trusting a God who knows my past, my present and my future better than I do. I will put my life in God's hand but I will be responsible for the life He has given me. Trust

and obey for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. TWO: I will seek wisdom. I will be a servant of others! I will understand that the only way to be great in God's kingdom is to be a servant of all!

3. I will be a person of action; I will not use age, infirmity, education or the lack thereof as an excuse for not being obedient. I will seize this moment for eternity; Today, while it is called today, I will not harden my heart, I will not deflect my fears into the destruction of faith, I choose to live, to do, to act and in my doing, I will rest in Christ! Whatsoever my hand finds to do, I will do it with all my might.

4. I will trust what the Word of God says; my destiny and eternity itself is assured through Christ, I can make right decision because He who is in me is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

5. Today I choose to be joyful for the joy of the Lord IS my strength; Today, I choose to be grateful for I have been given much to be grateful for.

6. Today, I will not be seduced by lies; I will trust in the Word of God as my source and foundation of truth. I will not be swayed by politics, power, pleasure, popularity or false promises that would seduce me into believing that godliness is based in how much money I have in the bank, how big my home is, how new my car is, YOU give and take away, YOU give and take away, my heart will truly say, BLESSED BE YOUR NAME!

7. I will greet this day with a forgiving spirit. I WILL FORGIVE!! If I sin, I will confess my sin to God, repent and receive forgiveness, if I am sinned against I will seek out my brother or sister who has sinned against me and work things out to the extent that there isn't left an opportunity for Satan to work a wedge in the unity of the body of Christ; if I am in the wrong, I will confess to my brother or sister; I will NOT seek vengeance. As much as it lies within me, I will be at peace with all. I will greet this day with a forgiving spirit. I will forgive.

8. I WILL work 'til Jesus comes! (How will I know what to do?) "WHATSOEVER MY HAND FINDS TO DO, I WILL DO IT WITH ALL MY MIGHT!"

9. I WILL PERSVERE WITHOUT EXCEPTION. I AM A PERSON OF FAITH! If I am blessed, I will persevere; if darkness falls and I face the storm, I will persevere. Not because of me, but because of Him who rules the storm and the blessing both.

10. ETERNITY IS IN MY HEART; I WILL WORK, HELP, ASSIST, REST, BE ACTIVE, WITHIN THE GIFTING GOD HAS GIVEN ME, AS A WISE STEWARD UNTIL I GO HOME TO GLORY OR HE RETURNS FOR ME. I'LL WORK TILL JESUS COMES!