

Started Preaching This Sermon – 1990

- For 30 years I have taken one sermon to remind us of the brevity of life.
- In 1991 I put together six albums of pictures covering our 15 years of marriage.
- I was struck with the changes I saw in our children. Laura was then 14, Sarah 12, Paul 10.
- It led me to see in a graphic way how brief life was and how quickly those 15 years had passed

Make me Know my End

- *LORD, **make me to know my end**, and what is **the measure of my days**, that I may **know how frail I am**. 5 Indeed, You have **made my days as handbreadths**, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly **every man at his best state is but vapor**. 6 Surely **every man walks about like a shadow**; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them. 7 And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You Ps. 39:4-7*
- At the end of each year...A time to reflect/consider

In 1996 I Introduced Mileposts

- When we go on long distances, we use those markers that each state has now placed on the interstate Highways.
- They tell us how far we have come and how far we still have to go.
- I realized that God has done the same with our lives and He wants us to use the years as they pass to guide us
- To give us a heart of wisdom.

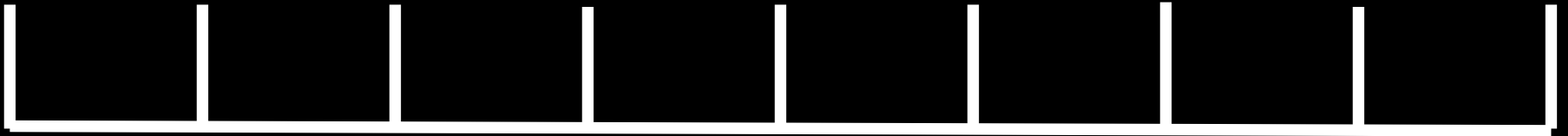


Teach Us to Number Our Days

*We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for **it is soon cut off, and we fly away.** 11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So **teach us to number our days**, that we may **gain a heart of wisdom.***

Ps 90:10-12

The Days of Our Lives



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

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teach us to number our days,

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Seventy or by reason of strength Eighty

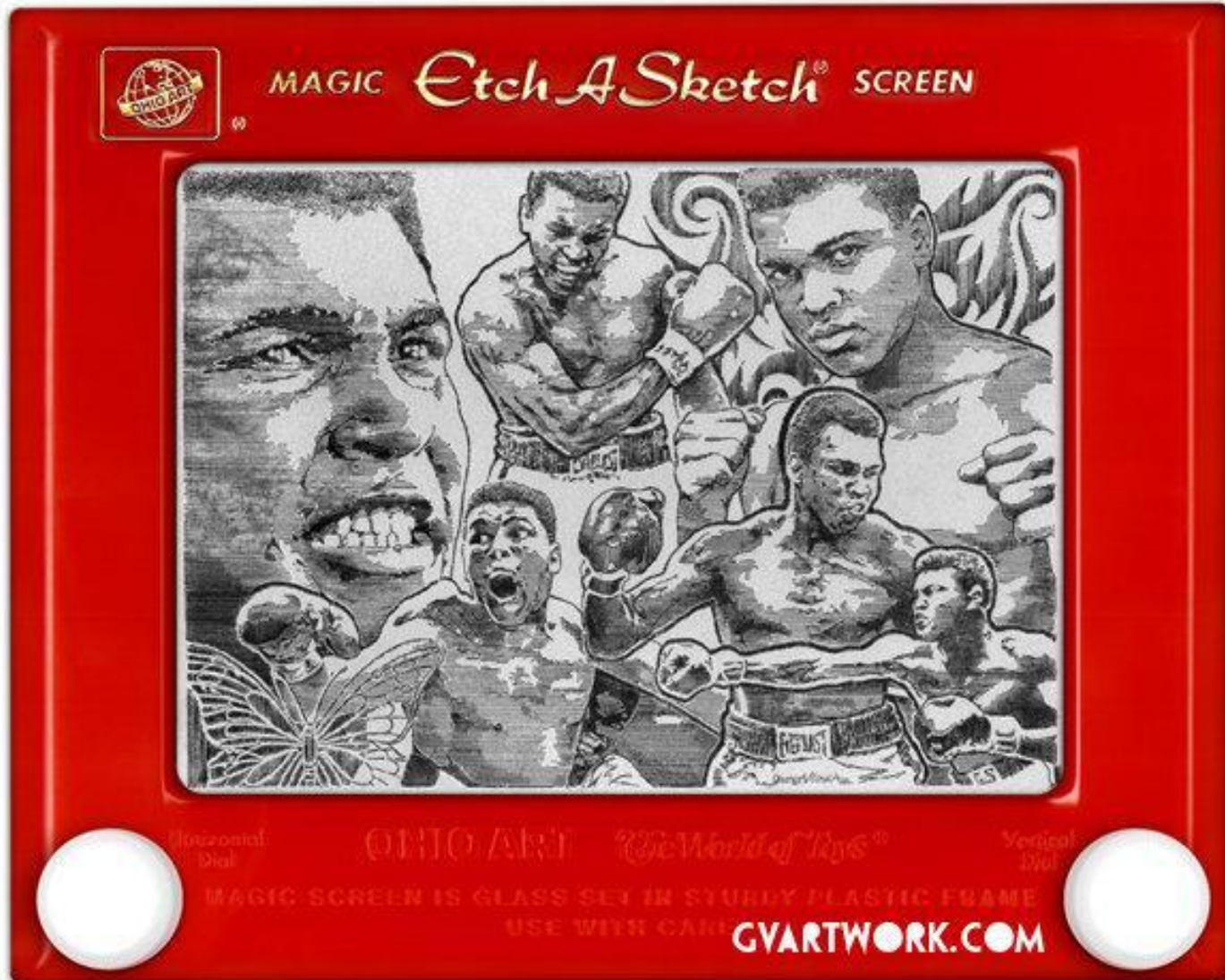
Knowing the Time

• And do this, **knowing the time**, that now it is **high time to awake** out of sleep; for **now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.** 12 **The night is far spent, the day is at hand.** Therefore let us **cast off the works of darkness**, and let us **put on the armor of light.** 13 Let us **walk properly, as in the day**, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.** Rom 13:11-14

In 1998 I Introduced the Etch-o-Sketch

- An interesting toy that would allow you to turn it over and shake and start over again.
- At any point in our life we can do that through the power of the gospel and the blood of Christ.
- Regardless of how far down the road we have come, we can stop at any moment and redo our life to be what it should be.

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The Days of Our Lives



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For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. 2 Sam 14:14

Seventy or by reason of strength Eighty

The Days of Our Lives



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

*Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow.
For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears
for a little time and then vanishes away. Jas 4:14-15*

Seventy or by reason of strength Eighty

In 2

ock



Wake Up!

- What does the sound of the alarm mean?
- Time for sleep is over – time to work.
- Eph 5:14; Wake up you who sleep!
- I Th 5:4-8 Let us not Sleep!
- All our life is like that alarm clock. There are deadlines and if we sleep them away, they are gone forever!

What might have been !

- As we look at our life how often do we wish things had been different
- **Did we sleep through High School?**
- **Do we say: If I had only known then what I know now?**
- **High School & College ended at Graduation**
- **Can never go back!**
- **Every facet of life ends the same!**

Teach us to Number our days!

- Ps 90:10, 12
- **70 to 80 years**
- **Youth – Adult – Middle Age – Golden Years**
- **Building a Marriage**
- **Raising children**
- **Building a Career**
- **Working in the Local Church**

In 2008 I introduced Life's Inversion

- We begin setting goals for the future: When will we drive, graduate, get married, have children, start our career. **We Look Forward!**
- When we pass all the major goals, we begin to number our days backwards. **We Look Back!**
- Anniversaries, reunions, birthdays become mileposts to tell us how far we have come.
- Children leave home, we look at retirement, our hair turns grey and our bodies begin to decay and the onset of the evil days begin.
- God set birth and death as key mileposts in life. Key time periods when critical decisions must be made.

- *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Tim 6:7*
- *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, Heb 9:27*
- *For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Eccl 3:1-2*

Out with the OLD

*Rejoice, O young man, in your youth,
And let your heart cheer you in the days
of your youth; Walk in the ways of your
heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But
know that for all these God will bring
you into judgment. Eccl 11:9*

In with the NEW!

Teach us to Number our Days

*let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Heb 12:1*

Gaining a Heart of Wisdom

Taking An Inventory

Bible Reading

Prayer

Sins of Ignorance

Sins of Commission

Sins of Omission

*II Pet 1 – faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control,
Perseverance, godliness brotherly kindness, love.*

Putting off and Putting on... Eph/Col

Areas of Concern