

# Our Salvation is Nearer!

- Today is the last Sunday of 2022.
- Another year has come and gone and 2023 is 7 days away
- As a new year approaches it is wise to reflect on 2022
- Each of us passed another milepost this past year.
- Another birthday, another year older.
- One year closer to standing before God
- *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**. Rom. 13:11*
- It is very important to use opportunities to wake up and assess.

# 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*

# Make me Know my End

- *make me to know my end,*
- *the measure of my days,*
- *that I may know how frail I am.*
- *You have made my days as handbreadths,*
- *my age is as nothing before You;*
- *every man at his best state is but vapor.*
- *every man walks about like a shadow;*
  - *they busy themselves in vain;*
  - *he heaps up riches, and*
  - *does not know who will gather them.*
  - *what do I wait for? My hope is in You Ps. 39:4-7*

# Make Me to Know My End

*A time to be born and a time to die. Ecc 3:1-2*

*Brought nothing in and certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Tim 6:7*

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there." Job 1:21*

*Appointed unto man once to die after this the judgment. Heb 9:27*

# How Frail I am

# Make Me to Know My End

*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*

# How Frail I am

# Teach us to Number our Days

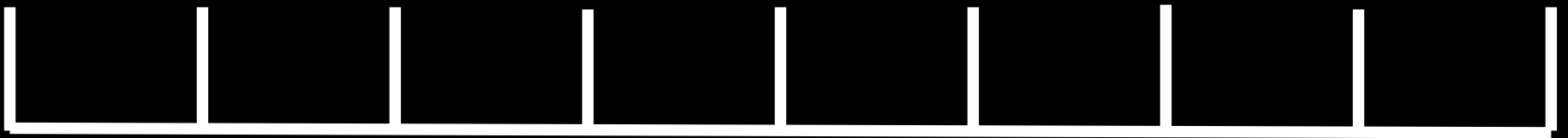
*days of our lives are seventy years;  
by reason of strength they are eighty years  
yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;  
for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.  
So teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

*Ps 90:10-12*

# Gaining a Heart of Wisdom



# The Days of Our Lives



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

*...It is soon cut off and we fly away...*

*...Teach us to number our days...*

*...That we may gain a heart of wisdom...*

Seventy or by reason of strength Eighty

# Teach us to Number our Days

**Rom 13:10-12**

*high time to awake out of sleep;*

*now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand.*

# Gaining a Heart of Wisdom



# Teach us to Number our Days

**1 Pet 4:1-3**

*no longer should live the rest of time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

*we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles*

# Gaining a Heart of Wisdom

# The Days of Our Lives



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

*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

*My grandparents have died, my sister has died, my wife has died, nearly all my friends have died, I guess I can do it too.*

Seventy or by reason of strength Eighty

First Aired 1960 – 62 years ago



MAGIC Etch-A-Sketch SCREEN



Turn it over --- One Shake --  
blank screen – they're gone

All Characters except Opie all passed from this earth.  
*So teach us to number our days – a heart of wisdom!*



# A + O = R

- *Not a math problem!*
- *Ability + Opportunity = Responsibility*
- *For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Mt 25:14-16*
- *We can't assess our use unless we look back.*

# Looking Back on 2022

- **Ability + Opportunity = Responsibility Mt 25:10**
- **What have our work and sacrifices produced?**
- **Have we traded and made gain or hidden them?**
- **As a Congregation**
  - We help support 4 preachers in America
  - A Preacher in India
  - 45 preachers in Malawi
  - We sent our evangelist to Malawi for seven weeks:
    - To ground 60 preachers in the truth of Scripture
    - To help many churches take a stand for the truth.
  - Maintained a place to worship and study Scripture



# Paul Thanked God

- *for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, Phil 1:5-6*
- The Money we send to preachers is our fellowship in their work.
- *you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but **I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.** Phil 4:16-18*
- All the work they do as a result of the time we give them is fruit increasing to our account.
- A wonderful promise from God

# Looking Back on 2022

## ● Individually:

- Helped Prince with his spiritual, emotional, financial and benevolent needs. Prayed for his success in evangelism
- We have prayed for our brethren in India who are suffering grievous persecutions.
- We have prayed for the multitudes of brethren in Malawi as they face false teachers and error.
- Some helped build and support the two places where young evangelists can be trained and grounded.
- Many good works that cannot be told but are written in the books God will open on the last day.



# Another Year Gone ... A New Year...

- Before we leave this year need to assess
- Are all sins repented and removed?
- *When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Ezek 18:25-29*



- Individual things that cannot be counted as statistics.
  - individual spiritual growth.
  - Training up our children in the way they should go
  - Praying for opportunities to preach to the lost
  - Struggling to conquer our lusts and sins
  - Growing in the knowledge of the Scriptures
  - Adding to our faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.
  - Good works that we be not unfruitful
  - What our hands find to do, do it with all your might
  - Buying up the opportunities in these evil days
  - How do we feel individually about these things?
  - Are we among those who have done these things?



- Not living in former lusts, but being HOLY 1Pet. 1:13ff
- Longed for the spiritual milk 1Pet 2:1-2;
- As sojourners and pilgrims stopped loving this world
- Have we come out from among them to be separate
- Looking for a city whose builder and maker is God
- Husbands showing more *agape*- love and patience?
- Wives becoming more submissive
- Servants on the job being more faithful.
- More compassionate toward our brethren
- Live the rest of our time in the flesh for the will of God

- Serving God with all our might. Ecc. 9:10
- zealous of good works. Titus 2:14
- sowing to the flesh or the spirit? Gal 6:7-10
- Laying up treasure in heaven or earth? Mt 6:19
- Seeking first His kingdom and righteousness Mt 6:33
- Hearing and doing Jesus' words – Building on Rock
- Hearing and not doing Jesus words – Building on Sand
- The end: Love, from a pure heart, good conscience, true faith,
- Adding on our part ... in your faith supply
- Faithful stewards of the gifts God has given each of us

# As the Life of a Flower ( 570)

- *As the life of a flower, As a breath or a sigh*
- *So the years that we live As a dream hasten by*
- *True today we are here, But tomorrow may see,*
- *Just a grave in the vale, and a memory of me.*

- *As the life of a flower*
- *As a breath or a sigh*
- *So the years glide away*
- *And alas we must die*