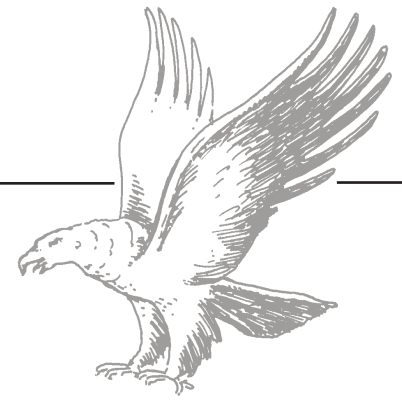


# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



February 28, 2016

## The Clock Is Ticking . . .

The passing of time in our lives is so slow that we fail to see how quickly it goes by. The wise person uses his days for those tasks that really matter, knowing that in the end, that's all that counts.

*“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (Jn. 9:4).*

*“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psa. 90:12).*



Melissa and I both turn 65 this year, which means we are currently in the process of signing up for Medicare, reviewing retirement options, and generally making the transition to “senior citizen” status. (No, I am *not* retiring any time soon—I think.)

Frankly, I'm not ready for any of this. I don't feel old at all, and have so much more that I want to accomplish before I pack it in. Of course, I realize that what I “feel” is irrelevant. The fact is, even in a best-case scenario I'm running out of time to complete everything on my bucket list. Like it or not—ready or not—my time on this earth will be over all too soon.

Jesus knew well the limitations of time. His ministry covered less than four years, and He died before His thirty-fourth birthday—what many of us

would consider “young.” He knew from the beginning that He had only a short time to finish His mission, so He threw Himself into His work with a seriousness befitting its value. He compared His ministry to a single work day, limited by the approaching nightfall. He had to achieve His life's work *now*, not “someday,” and His work habits reflected that urgency.

Moses, the author of Psalm 90, was likewise keenly aware of the brevity of life. Day after day, he witnessed the slow extermination of an entire generation of Israelites as they died off in the wilderness. The daily mortality reports were a grim reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of using our limited days wisely. We dare not waste them in frivolous pursuits.

Yet in far too many cases, that is exactly what we do. In our younger days, when it appears that we have so much time ahead of us, it's hard to appreciate how quickly it will pass by. So we end up squandering our years on trivial matters, and fail to achieve anything of lasting worth.

The examples of Jesus and Moses serve as a rebuke to that careless mindset. Their words challenge us to learn two lessons. First, *we must develop a deeper respect for the value of our time.* Moses counsels that we “number our days.” That's not a metaphor. Assuming a lifespan of eighty years, do the math for your own life. How many days do you have left? Not as many as you think. So get busy!

That leads to the second important lesson: *we must rekindle a spirit of urgency in our work.* We must set clear and meaningful objectives, and develop a plan for reaching those objectives. By “work” I am not necessarily talking about a career, but about those tasks that provide the greatest purpose to our existence—our relationships, our contributions to society, how we use our talents in service to others. These are the things that define a life well-lived, but they won't happen unless we approach them with a determined focus.

The clock is ticking—on my life and yours. What are we accomplishing with the time God has given us?

– David King