

LIFE IS TOO BRIEF TO WASTE LEARNING TO NUMBER OUR DAYS



by Jon Bloom
Staff writer, desiringGod.org

As I write, I'm sitting outside my home, basking in a verdant, cloudless midsummer day in Minnesota. The sun-drenched landscape around me is lush and green, except for the colorful interruptions of flowers in full bloom that draw the eye as well as the bees and hummingbirds. And from the trees, a virtuoso wren leads a choir of birds, providing a perfect seasonal soundtrack in surround sound.

And as I sit enveloped by this world flush with life, I'm thinking about how brief life is. I recently turned 59. One more quick trip around the sun, and I'll be 60 — if the Lord wills and I live, that is. Given how fast the decades are speeding by, before I know it I'll find myself at

“seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty,” which both Moses and modern demographers say is the average span of a human life (Psalm 90:10) — if the Lord wills and I live, that is. The end of my earthly life now feels less like someday and more like someday soon.

“For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.”
- Psalm 90:4

Which is why, in recent years, I have increasingly returned to what has become one of my favorite psalms: Moses's prayer in Psalm 90. I share Moses's deep desire for God to “teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom”

(Psalm 90:12). I want to know what it means to grow wise as we grow older.

Like It Was Yesterday

When I was a young man, the phrase “I remember that like it was yesterday” usually referred to events that occurred

just a few years prior. Now, I find myself saying that about things that happened three, four, even five decades ago.

- A fun grade-school overnight with my closest childhood friends, Brent and Dave.

- Riding in a car with high-school friends, belting out “American Fast Food” to a Randy Stonehill cassette.
- That moment in the Wayzata Perkins parking lot at age 18, when I knew deep in my soul that Pam was the one I would marry — and we weren't even officially dating yet! Now we've been married for 36 wonderful years.
- That first time I heard John Piper preach, and I knew deep in my soul that somehow my future would be intertwined with his — and we weren't even part of Bethlehem Baptist Church yet! Now we've been

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“Be A GRAND Grandparent”

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“When Two or More Gather”

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thebridechurch.org
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 Craftsmen for Christ
 Tues 6:30pm

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 Sundays - 10am
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hallwoodchurch.org
 Stacey Hanson, Pastor
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- GO TO YOUR ROOM -

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

When my children were little, this was probably their least favorite thing to be told. Actually, my younger children still hate to hear this. However, sometimes it is the best solution to a childish meltdown. For my youngest son, it is almost a magic cure. Much like his older brother at his age, an hour in his room alone can work wonders.



I know we often hear of the difference between being a child and an adult. In the case of being sent to your room, this is very true. I would love to be sent to my room every now and then—and I need to be sometimes! There are times when I have meltdowns too.

The truth is, these would be perfect times for me to take a minute, go to my room and pray. My adult meltdowns usually stem from trying to take on too much. I get bogged down trying to carry things that God never meant for me to carry alone. A few minutes in prayer help me calm down and focus on my relationship with Him. He reminds me that I am never alone and that the burden He gives me is light because He is right by my side carrying it.

I have to be honest, all of this is a lot easier said than done. This season it has seemed like heavy burdens have been piling on one after another. I know that it isn't just me either, a lot of people I know are going through extremely

difficult things. One of the things I love about a relationship with Jesus is that I can be absolutely real with Him about how I am feeling, and this season it seems I have run the gamut of feelings! I have been angry, sad, scared, relieved, anxious, happy and even a little depressed. But through all of this, Jesus has never left me alone, even when I have felt alone. I have encouraged my children in this also, that when they feel like they are alone in their rooms, Jesus is actually right there with them.

If you have been feeling overwhelmed too, may I suggest you go to your room? Your Heavenly Father is just waiting to spend some time with you. He is ready to hear all about how you are feeling and listen to all your concerns. He would love to come alongside you and carry the burdens you were never meant to carry.

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father."
Matthew 6:6a

THE PRICE OF BEING A PASTOR

Being a Pastor is listed among the four most difficult professions in the United States because, a Pastor must be:

- Preacher
- Example
- Father
- Husband
- Counselor
- Conference caller
- Planner
- Minister
- Visionary
- Director
- Mentor
- Friend
- Reconciliador
- Marriage counselor
- Youth Counselor
- Leader's trainer
- Bible teacher
- Intercessor etc.

Besides being:

- Keeper of the Temple
- Cleaning staff

Every Pastor constantly confronts

Reviews like:

- The Pastor doesn't visit me
- Sermon don't fill me up
- The Services are to long
- Temp is either to cold or to hot
- Pastor's children are not an example according to others.

One of the most difficult things in the life of a Pastor is to know that at some



point the people they love will abandon or even betray them.

The Pastor is often the loneliest person in the congregation.

You may see a Pastor be surrounded by people, but very rarely people who are interested in their problems, needs or even in their lives.

And let's not mention the demands that congregations place on Pastors' children. For this I would like to give you advice: if you have a Pastor or have as friends Pastors' children take care of them, pray for them, connect with vision that God gave them, support them, but above all love them. Remember they are human and in the same way they go through the same needs as you.

Even if you don't believe it, many Pastors and their Families have sacrificed comforts, rest, personal plans and so many things including some of their own family's needs to attend God's call.

And still he values this call as the greatest job and wouldn't trade it for

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THE AMBASSADOR

◀ *The Ambassador is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches.*

◀ *The Ambassador has a circulation of 6,000 - 7,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.*

◀ *The purpose of The Ambassador is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.*

◀ *We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

◀ *We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.*

◀ *We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of The Ambassador. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.*

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Editor/Publisher - Seth Halpern - Advisory - Dave Kugelman - Design - Teresa Davis

Be a GRAND Grandparent!

by Michele Howe

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before...comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought upon him. The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first.

Job 42:10-12

In our lives God uses conflict not just to make the story better but to make us better. In life, not just literature, we repeatedly see that protection from conflict produces soft, spoiled, and selfish people, while enduring conflict is more likely to produce someone strong, capable, and caring.

Randy Alcorn

If I'm honest, I really hate this principle. No one, especially me, enjoys conflict with others; hardship or suffering. Not a bit of it. Truth be told, I absolutely am convinced that my own seasons of suffering and times of loss have made me a better person...a more worthy and effective comforter to others. Although Job's extreme loss of everything he counted dear is an extreme one, we can learn so much from his supernatural, grace-given, faith-driven response to



his pain. He got down on the ground and worshipped the Lord. If that response wows you as much as it does me then we can all agree Job's example is something worth paying attention to when we face unthinkable trials (or worse still...when our loved ones face them).

GRANDparents learn from their parenting mistakes

At this writing, I have four adult children; six grandchildren; plus five more grands in Heaven. After interviewing women and men for both of my Empty Nest books, I learned a lot about what regrets moms and dads have from parenting their own now adult children. Right at the top of these surveys runs one theme. Parents

from all walks of life now realize they didn't always allow their children to feel the consequences of their poor choices keenly enough. It's true. These now grandparents are viewing parenting from a wiser and more experienced vantage

point and they hope and pray their own adult children will allow the necessary cause and effect life lessons into their grandchildren's lives on a regular basis.

GRANDparents teach their grandchildren how to handle loss

Today's grandparents recognize the value of allowing pain and some suffering into their grandchildren's lives because they understand it takes hardship and loss and personal discomfort to nurture strong, giving, other-centered, resilient adults. Taking a broad view of the human experience, I doubt anyone would disagree that those who have endured some of the worst life has to offer are often the most giving, mature, kind, and compassionate individuals out there.

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CALENDAR

WWW.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM

ONGOING EVENTS

GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.

A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM

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EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM

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"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month

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1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak

www.churchofgladtidings.com

Join us for a night of worship, prayer, and freedom

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM

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Come to receive prayer and be refreshed while soaking in an atmosphere of worship and praise. Sorry, No Childcare.

ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays, 7:00pm

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

Christian 12 Step support group

GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

ONGOING EVENTS

PRIME TIMERS - First Friday every month at 12:00 (Noon)

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

Potluck luncheon for 55+, bring your favorite dish and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am.

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

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NIGHT OF PRAYER

Every Last Saturday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

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Agape Worship Center, 504 J St., Marysville

October 5, 2024 at 5:00pm

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(See ad on page 16 for details).

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to list Ongoing or Special Events your church is hosting.

(partner churches have priority)

**"Ongoing Events"
Continued....Keep Reading.**

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR •

• Prayer List for October 2024 •

- 1-Oct **Ambassador** - Please pray for this ministry, its impact and God's provision for it
- 2-Oct **Global Revival** - Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!
- 3-Oct **First Responders** - Police, Firefighters, EMT, TIP
- 4-Oct **Struggling Women** - Pray for Teen Challenge, Lydia's House, Casa de Esperanza.
- 5-Oct **Unity of Churches/Global impact** - Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 6-Oct **Israel and the Middle East** - For the peace of Jerusalem
- 7-Oct **Homeless/Poor** - Twin Cities Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, REST
- 8-Oct **Parents of Missing Children** - Pray for families that have a missing teen or child and need answers to where they are.
- 9-Oct **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 10-Oct **Mental Health** - Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Health/ Illness issues and suicidal thoughts, that they would receive support & treatment
- 11-Oct **Marriages** - Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 12-Oct **Local city/county leaders** - Wisdom for leading our community
- 13-Oct **Pastor Appreciation Day** - Pray for all Ministers of the Gospel to feel the appreciation of their congregation.
- 14-Oct **California** - pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies
- 15-Oct **Local Ministries** - Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 16-Oct **Veterans** - Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- 17-Oct **Former President Trump** - Pray for safety and protection during this campaign.
- 18-Oct **Life** - Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies
- 19-Oct **Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden** and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 20-Oct **Human Trafficking**- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 21-Oct **Discipleship** - Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like HIM every day!
- 22-Oct **Race Relations** - Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 23-Oct **Pray for your neighbor** - for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- 24-Oct **The Persecuted Church around the world.** Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 25-Oct **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 26-Oct **Addicted** - Pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord and pursue and receive the treatment needed
- 27-Oct **Senior and Elderly** - Pray for renewed physical and mental strength
- 28-Oct **Pastors** - That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 29-Oct **Pray for the Widows, Grieving Parents and families** who are moving forward without loved ones. Pray they find peace and hope
- 30-Oct **Pray that children of fatherless or motherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 31-Oct **Halloween** - Pray for all participating in Halloween fun to be safe from dark forces.

Bible Search Word

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PUMPKIN PRAYER

God picked you from the patch!
John 15:16

CUT OFF THE TOP



LORD, OPEN MY MIND
AND FILL ME WITH
YOUR WISDOM
AND GUIDANCE.

CLEAN OUT THE INSIDE



TAKE AWAY
ALL MY SINS AND
FORGIVE ME FOR THE
WRONG THINGS I DO.

CARVE OUT THE EYES



OPEN MY EYES
SO I CAN SEE ALL
OF THE BEAUTIFUL
THINGS YOU
HAVE MADE.

CARVE OUT THE NOSE



LORD, I'M SORRY
FOR TURNING MY NOSE
UP AT THINGS YOU
HAVE GIVEN ME.

CARVE OUT THE MOUTH

HELP ME TO
ALWAYS SPEAK
YOUR WORDS
OF LOVE
AND KINDNESS.



ADD A CANDLE



LET ME BE A LIGHT
TO OTHERS, FOR YOU
HAVE FILLED ME WITH
YOUR LIGHT.

CHURCH OF GLAD TIDINGS

ISAIAH 61

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

AND

DELIVERANCE

CONFERENCE

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October CCN Weekly Schedule:

10- 1 Sean Blount
10-8 Dennis & Connie Gabel
10- 15 Teresa Oakley
10- 22 TBA
10- 29 Prayer

*Schedule subject to change

We hope you can join us!
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "LIFE IS TOO BRIEF TO WASTE..."

...serving in ministry together for more than 30 years.

- That overwhelming moment in the hospital room 28 years ago when I held our first child for the first time. Now that child is nearly the age I was then.

I remember these events like they were yesterday. And they leave me wondering where all the time went. How did it go by so fast?

Like Yesterday When It Is Past

Moses felt this kind of bewilderment too, and even more when he compared our brief lives to God's life:

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." (Psalm 90:2)

Given how prone we are to see ourselves as lead characters in the drama of existence, it does our souls good to sit and prayerfully ruminate on what it means for God to exist "from everlasting to everlasting." It boggles our minds. It's supposed to. It's meant to reframe our exaggerated perceptions of ourselves and our lifetimes, so we see them from a realistic and humbling perspective —



God's perspective. It's necessary that we, who experience time in terms of decades, keep in mind that our experience is not like God's:

"For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night." (Psalm 90:4)

Moses is using metaphorical language here. If anything, he's understating the reality. But God gives us this metaphor in Scripture so we have something comprehensible to help us get some idea of the incomprehensible.

So, if we imagine that God experiences a thousand years like yesterday when it is

past, how does he experience the lives of creatures like us, who ("even by reason of strength") don't live much beyond eighty years? It means that, for God, the longest human lives don't span even two hours of yesterday.

Two Significant Hours

How should this observation land on us? If we come away with the impression that we're insignificant and don't really matter in the great divine scheme, then we're missing the point. God doesn't measure significance in terms of time duration but in terms of what he values.

Think of something you did for two hours yesterday. Were those two hours

insignificant? Some of the most significant things in our lives occur in minutes and hours. They may have lasted a very brief time compared to how long we live, and yet we consider them priceless.

So, what are we meant to glean from Moses's description? Simply put, our lives are very brief — briefer than we tend to assume, and far too brief to waste.

Teach Us to Number Our Days

What this glorious but fleeting midsummer day in Minnesota is preaching to me is that my life is too brief to waste. And at 59, I see it as a metaphorical picture of my past, not my present. I'm now in the autumn of my life and, like any Minnesotan, I know that winter is coming. And it is not merely coming someday; it is coming someday soon, almost before I know it.

So, I find myself praying with Moses, "Teach me, Lord, to number my days that I may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Because I want to grow wiser as I grow older.

And a heart of wisdom recognizes that while each day of mortal life is very brief, it is profoundly significant because its minutes and hours are priceless. Each brief day of mortal life counts, not just for an earthly life well-lived, but for eternity.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13

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LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

"Eight Babies From Tim Walz's State "Were Left to Die" After They Survived Abortions"

by Joshua Mercer

During September 10th's presidential debate, ABC's Linsey Davis "fact-checked" former President Donald Trump's comments regarding children who survive abortions.

A chorus of journalists immediately questioned Davis' "correction" of Trump, expressing that the Republican nominee made a valid point about some states' pro-abortion policies.

Davis, who co-moderated the debate alongside her ABC colleague David Muir, claimed: "There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it's born."

The moderator made the claim after Trump answered her question regarding his stance on abortion.

In Trump's answer, he said that the Democrats take a "radical" position on the issue, adding: "They have abortion in the ninth month."

Trump had also referred to a 2019 interview of then-Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, who said that a "discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother" if a baby was born alive following a failed late-term abortion. Trump initially incorrectly referred to Northam as the former



governor of West Virginia.

Minutes after Davis attempted to debunk Trump's response, the Media Research Center took to X (formerly Twitter) with a "fact check" of its own.

"Babies are regularly murdered after they are born in botched abortions," wrote the watchdog group.

The Daily Signal's Mary Margaret Olohan wrote in an article last month, "data from the Minnesota Department of Health shows that at least eight babies who survived abortions" in Minnesota "were left to die."

Signal Managing Editor Tyler O'Neil

posted a link to Olohan's piece on X shortly after Davis' "fact check" at the debate.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz has been the Governor of Minnesota since 2019.

"Under a 2015 Minnesota law, the state formerly was required to report whether abortions resulted in the live birth of a baby, what actions were taken to preserve the life of that baby, and whether the baby survived," Olohan continued:

Those reporting requirements exposed that between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021, physicians performed five abortions that resulted in a baby's live birth.

No measures were taken to help the first baby, who reportedly had "fetal anomalies" that resulted "in death shortly after delivery." Two of the babies were given "comfort care measures" as they died. No measures were taken to "preserve life" of the last two babies, who were pre-viable.

Previous data from the Minnesota Department of Health reveals that physicians have been leaving babies to die after failed abortions for years.

"Not true, ABC News," wrote Family Research Council (FRC) President Tony Perkins on X Wednesday afternoon, responding to Davis' "fact check."

"In 12 states, children born alive after a failed abortion have no legal protection, and in three more states children born alive after an abortion had legal rights that governors—like Tim Walz—repealed," Perkins wrote, citing the FRC's data.

"Medical personnel have testified of babies being left to die or gruesomely killed after being born alive following a failed abortion," he added.

Perkins posted a map to X showing each state's level of protection for babies born alive following failed abortions. The

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13



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Breakpoint: The Life and Faith of Blaise Pascal

On August 19, 1662, French philosopher, mathematician, and apologist Blaise Pascal died at just 39 years old. Despite his shortened life, Pascal is renowned for pioneering work in geometry, physics, and probability theory, and even for inventing the first mechanical calculator. His most powerful legacy, however, is his *Pensées*, or thoughts, about life's biggest questions, including God and the human condition.

Pascal's intellect garnered attention at an early age. At 16, he produced an essay on the geometry of cones so impressive that René Descartes initially refused to believe that a "sixteen-year-old child" could have written it. Later, Pascal advanced the study of vacuums and, essentially, invented probability theory.

His life radically changed the evening of November 23, 1654, when Pascal experienced God's presence in a powerful way. He immediately and radically reoriented his life and thinking toward God. He described the experience on a scrap of parchment that he sewed into his jacket and carried with him the rest of his life:

FIRE—God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of the philosophers and



scholars. Certitude, certitude. Heartfelt joy, peace. God of Jesus Christ. My God and thy God. Thy God shall be my God.

From that moment, Pascal dedicated his life to serving God through his writing. His ideas on apologetics were collected and published after his death in a volume entitled, *Pensées*, or "Thoughts."

Best known of his ideas is "Pascal's Wager." Facing uncertainty in a game of life with such high stakes, he argued, it makes far more sense to believe in God's existence than to not: "If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is."

Pascal also offered keen diagnoses of the

human condition, such as this:

The human being is only a reed, the most feeble in nature; but this is a thinking reed. It isn't necessary for the entire universe to arm itself in order to crush him; a whiff of vapor, a taste of water, suffices to kill him. But when the universe crushes him, the human being becomes still more noble than that which kills him. ... The universe, it does not have a clue.

Or even better:

What a Chimera is man! What a novelty, a monster, a chaos, a contradiction, a prodigy! Judge of all things, an imbecile worm; depository of truth, and sewer of error and doubt; the glory and refuse of the universe.

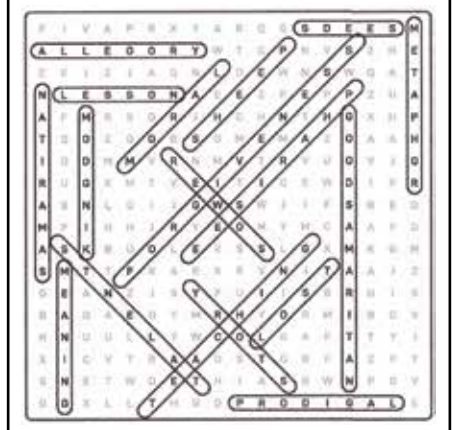
Pascal also accurately described the moral condition of human beings. For example, "[W]e hate truth and those who tell it [to] us, and ... we like them to be deceived in our favour." He also observed that people tend to distract themselves from the reality of death, but when our diversions run their course, we feel "nothingness."

A generation later, even the most prominent thinkers of the Enlightenment could not dismiss Pascal's brilliance. According to philosopher Dr. Patrick Riley,

Holbach, as late as the 1770s, still found it necessary to quarrel with the author

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13

**Continued from Page 7
Bible Word Search Answers**



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CONT'D FROM PAGE 4: "THE PRICE OF BEING A PASTOR."

anything!

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This month is Pastor Appreciation month. Take some time to show your Pastor how much you appreciate him, his wife and their children. I'm sure a sincere "Thank You" will go a long ways.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 5: "BE A GRAND GRANDPARENT"

GRANDparents encourage their grandchildren to learn from their mistakes

One of the more powerful gifts we can give to our grandchildren (and our adult children) is to view all of life experiences (the good and the bad) as valuable life lessons that will help to form our character as we submit these difficulties one-by-one to the Lord. Some of the more sensitive grandparents among our number might resist accepting this fact. But in truth, if we shelter our grandchildren from age-appropriate life lessons we hinder their growth and development as robust change-makers in God's kingdom. Even a brief study of God's Word reveals that most (all?) biblical characters worth emulating grew in character and godliness post-seasons-of-personal suffering.

GRANDparents pray every day for their grandchildren

Given this albeit painful truth, wise grandparents will not resist the working of God in their grandchildren's lives to save them a small measure of temporary

discomfort in lieu of possible permanent character development paralysis. They won't. So what is the loving grandparent to do? Get on their knees. Stay on their knees. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

Ask the Lord for the wisdom and grace to know how to pray. Instead of simply beseeching the Lord for pain relief; how about asking that the Lord do a good work of developing strength; patience; kindness; compassion; and long-suffering in our grands' lives. Grandparents will liven up their prayer life by starting and ending with generous amounts of praise to the Lord by thanking Him for completing this good work even before the He has begun. Real life changes begin and end when grandparents are on their knees.

Michele Howe is the author of 29 books for women, children, and families. She has published over 3000 articles, reviews, and curriculum. One of her favorite topics to write on is her grandchildren. Her book, There's a Reason They Call It Grandparenting calls all grandparents to a lifelong eternally focused relationship with their grands.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 11: "LIFEMATTERS...WE'RE LEFT TO DIE..."

map is also available on the FRC website.

Compact Magazine founder and editor Matthew Schmitz wrote on X Wednesday: "In 2022, years before Tim Walz emerged on the national scene, I pointed out that babies who survived abortion procedures were being left to die in Minnesota."

Schmitz referred to a July 2022 post by pro-life journalist Micaiah Bilger.

In the post, Bilger enclosed what Schmitz referred to as a screenshot from the Walz administration's Minnesota Department of Health.

"FIVE babies were born alive in abortions and left to die in Minnesota in 2021," Bilger wrote, underlining nearly identical language in the screenshot. "FIVE – in one state!"

CONT'D FROM PAGE 10: "LIFE IS TOO BRIEF TO WASTE..."

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:10) — and all of our good or evil happens during the ordinary, precious minutes and hours of ordinary,

precious, and brief days.

Jon Bloom (@Bloom_Jon) serves as teacher and cofounder of Desiring God. He is the author of four books, including Not by Sight and most recently True to His Word. He and his wife have five children and make their home in the Twin Cities.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 12: Breakpoint: ...Blaise Pascal"

of the Pensées, Condorcet, when editing Pascal's works, renewed the old debate; Voltaire throughout his life, and even in his last year, launched sally after sally at the writer who frightened him every time he—a hypochondriac—felt ill.

The fallout of the French Revolution would prove that Pascal's arguments about God—who, he claimed, was essential in everything—and his observations about the human condition, were right. On the contrary, Enlightenment thinkers such as Voltaire, who argued that mankind would be better off if freed from any higher power, were shown to be naive at best. Divorced from God and committed instead to "pure reason," France devolved into a violent, anarchic wasteland.

Even today, Pascal's writing has lost none of its fire, nor has the fruits of his intellect, passion, and eloquence dedicated to God

diminished. As he wrote on the parchment sewn into his jacket,

Jesus Christ.

I have fallen away: I have fled from Him, denied Him, crucified him.

May I not fall away forever.

We keep hold of him only by the ways taught in the Gospel.

Renunciation, total and sweet.

Total submission to Jesus Christ and to my director.

Eternally in joy for a day's exercise on earth.

I will not forget Thy word. Amen.

This Breakpoint was co-authored by Dr. Glenn Sunshine. If you're a fan of Breakpoint, leave a review on your favorite podcast app. For more resources to live like a Christian in this cultural moment, go to breakpoint.org

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"WHEN TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED": EXPLORING THE MEANING OF MATTHEW 18:20

"When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). This familiar verse is often cited during prayer meetings and church services, but its deeper meaning is often overlooked. To fully understand it, we need to examine its context and purpose.

Understanding the Context

In Matthew 18, Jesus discusses how believers should handle conflict, sin, and forgiveness within the church. Just before verse 20, He outlines how to

address sin in the community. If someone sins against you, you should first confront them privately. If that doesn't resolve the issue, you bring in one or two others as witnesses. If it still isn't settled, the matter is brought before the church.

It's in this context that Jesus says, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them." This verse is about unity, particularly in moments of conflict and reconciliation. Jesus promises His presence when believers come together to seek His will and pursue peace.

The Power of Unity in Jesus' Name

Gathering "in Jesus' name" means more than just physically coming together. It's about gathering with a shared purpose, seeking to align with Christ's will. The key is the phrase "in my name." When we gather with humility and a desire for unity, Jesus is spiritually present in a unique way. His presence isn't just symbolic; it's a guiding force, especially when resolving disagreements.

Jesus knew there would be conflict in the church. This verse assures us that when we seek unity, Jesus is there to help us navigate the challenges. His presence encourages us to work toward peace and forgiveness.

Beyond Numbers: Personal and Collective Presence

Many interpret this verse to mean Christ is only present in group settings. While it highlights the power of community, it doesn't mean Jesus is absent when we are alone. The Bible assures us that He is with each of us individually, always.

Still, this verse emphasizes the importance of community. We aren't meant to walk our faith journey alone. The New Testament repeatedly calls for believers to support one another, serve together, and live in unity. Gathering "in Jesus' name" strengthens our bond with



Seth Halpern, Editor

each other and deepens our connection to Christ.

Jesus in the Midst of Conflict

One of the most comforting aspects of this verse is its application to conflict. Disagreements and misunderstandings are inevitable in any community, but rather than avoid them, this verse calls us to face them together. Christ promises to be present in the process, guiding us toward understanding and forgiveness.

Conclusion

Matthew 18:20 is a powerful reminder of the significance of gathering in Jesus' name, especially in moments of conflict. It's about more than just coming together; it's about seeking Christ's will in unity. Whether in times of worship, fellowship, or conflict resolution, when we gather in His name, Jesus is with us, helping us to love, forgive, and grow together as His body.

Finding  Freedom
in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, **Jesus**, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

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***A Woman's Friend is excited to announce our
2024 Annual Benefit Banquet speaker!***

***Kaya Jones, formerly of the Grammy award-winning group
"Pussycat Dolls"!***

**October 18, 2024 @6:30 pm
Adventure Church- Yuba City**



Kaya Jones is a Canadian-born singer, songwriter, and producer. Growing up in Las Vegas, by age 16, she had signed with Capitol Records, and in 2003, auditioned and was selected from thousands of other singers for a spot with the Pussycat Dolls. Since leaving the Pussycat Dolls, Jones developed her career as a solo artist. At 26, she became the youngest female to start her record label. In 2019, Jones won a Grammy Award for collaborating with gospel artist Jason Crabb. But this storybook existence masked a dark reality because, by the age of 16, she had the first of three abortions. Today, she shares her experience of abortion and her journey of healing.

On October 18, those attending A Woman's Friend Annual Benefit Banquet in Yuba City can hear Kaya Jones share her story. Her goal is to reach and help young women in particular, but her heart breaks for men who are also suffering after abortion, she said. We would love for you to join us for this event! This event will sell out fast!

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