

# THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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## Already!

Vernon Teagarden

I can't believe it! 2018 is gone and cannot be recalled. 2019 is already upon us. Can you believe it? Where does the time go? It seems as if we just celebrated the ushering in of 2018 as the New Year and yet, it is 2019 we just ushered in. However, that's time, is it not? I mean, you just get started and in the blink of an eye time has passed. Well did James state it in James 4:14, "...For what is your life? It is as a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." Life is brief at best and goes by so very quickly for time, "the stuff that life is made of," is fleeting. Therefore, we need to learn to not waste time and use it very wisely.

Moses wrote in the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm, "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...So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom" (vs. 10, 12). Moses is not guaranteeing that each person will have seventy or eighty years of life but that life, at best, is brief, and is soon over. Therefore, learn to use your time wisely; do not waste it, for it cannot be recalled. Let the Lord teach you to take this into consideration and learn how to use your time sensibly. Let none of us be like the foolish farmer of Luke 12 who counted upon many years to come when, that night, his soul was required of him (Lk. 12:13-21). We must live under the constant awareness and apprehension of the shortness and uncertainty of life. Therefore Lord, "teach us to number our days," and Lord, help us to gain a "heart of wisdom." The wisdom which "comes from above" that would have us live for eternity; as it is stated in Colossians 3:1, 2 "...seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul teaches us

that we are to "redeem the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). "Redeeming" is associated with the idea of "buying" as Vine defines it; such as a purchasing of a slave with a view to his freedom. So, in what sense is Paul using the word in this passage? Well, I believe that what Paul is trying to get across to us is that we are not to "waste" time, but rather, "buy up the opportunity" or "make the most of every opportunity" and use time discreetly, making the most of your time. Primarily, by using it to your advantage in serving the Lord remembering that none can be recalled. How do we do this? Paul gives a couple of illustrations in teaching us the "how." First, "See that you walk circumspectly (carefully, guardedly), not as fools but as wise" (v. 15). Second, "Therefore, be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (v. 17). This would require that we use some of our time in study of God's word, a good use of time! Third, avoid intoxicating drink, and be "filled with the Spirit" (v. 18). With a little thought, I believe you would agree that the best use we can make of our time is coming to an understanding of God's word and making application of it in our everyday lives, regarding our thoughts, words and activities.

Yes, 2019 is here already! However, before "we can turn around," it will be 2020, if the world continues. Therefore, use your time wisely throughout this coming year and let the Lord teach you to "number your days that you may gain a heart of wisdom."

**Southeast Church of Christ**

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**Service Times:**

**Sunday: 10 am, 10:40am; 6:00pm**

**Wednesday: 7:30 pm**

# Life is Short, Make it Sweet

Jordan Smith

We have all been told, “Life is like a vapor.” (James 4:14). This is true; no matter how many years we spend on this earth, whether it be few or many, our lives are short compared to eternity. On an intellectual level each one of us understands this fact. Few of us, however, truly grasp this concept. Understanding on a deeper, emotional level that our time on this earth is short is difficult because we have never experienced anything more. Keep this fact in mind: Life is Short.

Take a moment and think about your future. What do you picture it will be like? Now, picture yourself nearing the end of your life laying down in a bed, soon to pass. What thoughts will be running through your mind? What concerns will you have? What memories will you bring to your recollection? At this point each of us will most likely understand just how short our lives were. In this short time on earth that you had to spend with family and friends, did you make it sweet? No one ever wants to reflect on their past experiences and be filled with feeling of regret. So, as you are picturing this moment in your mind, are you at peace?

Throughout our lives we deal with a variety of emotions and feelings like anger and happiness, etc. We can be overwhelmed by the corruptness in the world and all the negativity, but this is not how God intended for us to live this life. God gave us the ability to laugh and feel joy for a reason. The only way for anyone to ever truly be at peace on their deathbed is to be at peace with God. Matthew 6:25-34 discusses the stress we get caught up in. Occasionally, we do because we are human. In those moments all we need to do is remember that God will take care of us...if we do His will. We should not wait until we are nearing the end of our life to consider our spiritual condition and begin to search for salvation. This will not bring us any peace because all our lives we will spend anxiously searching for fulfillment. For us to find peace we need to look unto God. For us to make our lives sweet, we need to focus on the seemingly small, meaningful aspects of our lives. As our lives come to a close we will not be thinking of the size of our home, but the magnitude of the memories in them. We will not be thinking of the hours we spent at work, but the mere moments, in comparison, we were with our friends and family. We should each hope and aspire to experience such a peaceful end to life here on earth, and an eagerness for the life to come. And all of us can, so long as we obey the Lord, our God.

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## Food For Thought!

1. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
2. Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
3. Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
4. Kindness is difficult to give away, because it keeps coming back.
5. Plan ahead; it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
6. If we don't change the message, the message can change us.
7. Never give the devil a ride! He will always want to drive!