

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Number Your Days" 5/3/23

*Teach us to number each of our days
so, we may grow in wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)*

“Waste no more time talking about what a good man is like, be one.” Wise words from Marcus Aurelius, who was one of the good Emperors of Rome. “Do or do not, there is no try” – said Yoda. Either do it or don’t. Commit or don’t commit. There is never a time where one does both.

There is sitting on the fence, I guess, but that’s not even trying, that is doing nothing, that noncommittal. Make a list. Then put a cup of coffee on top of it. Make sure you spill the coffee, so you can’t read it. And you’re back to doing nothing.

A college professor once told our class, “Do the next thing, now.” That’s bigger than do the next thing, it moves it to the top of our to-do list and puts it in our hands, on our lips, our feet. Do it, get off the couch, out of your doldrums, get dressed, pick up the phone, the pen, the computer, the broom and just do it, already.

And these words of wisdom come from a class “A” procrastinator. When people say, “I work best under pressure,” they are a procrastinator and that’s why they’re under pressure.

Victor Hugo put it in words we will understand, “Short as life is, we make it still shorter by the careless waste of time.” Number your days.

We justify our not completing the assignment, the house cleaning, the presentation, the sermon, the call, the job by saying, “There are just never enough hours in the day”. Well, there are, others accomplish a lot in the same allotted 24 hours. Sleep less. Don’t watch so much TV. Do the next thing - now, then the next, then the next and soon the list is full of check marks – and you’ll sleep like a baby.

Frustrating to read or hear these words, more frustrating to type and say them. Once you know something – you are responsible. Now I can’t say, “Oh, I didn’t know I was supposed to get off the fence and actually do that.”

We need to take time to pray and ask God to teach us to number each of our days. To help us focus on the next thing and *getter done*. We will feel wise when we complete it. We will be seen as good people when we actually do the next thing and do it well. People will ask us how we accomplish so much.

So, let’s turn a new page, look at our list, put it in order and do the next this NOW. Let’s go. I guess the next thing is to do the next thing, with grace instead of complaints. The rest of the list – well, that’s for another day.

Please pray with me.

God of time. Help us to be wise and seen as good people. We place our to-do lists down and pray You will show us Your to-do list for our lives. Motivate us through our time with You, to love You and serve our neighbors by being who You created us to be. Help us put our eyes on You, number our days, and do the next thing, now.

Amen.