

Days of our Lives

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Family Night - Next Wed Night. [Dave Eubank/FBR July 27th]
- B. Slide3-5 Family Night Storm Stadium 7/15. Bible Boot Camp (HS & up)

II. **Intro:**

- A. Slide6 Some people are only **spending** their lives; **others** are **wasting** their lives; **a few** are **investing** their lives. (www)
- B. Theme: *Days of our Lives* Outline: Days of Decline. Days of Learning. Days of Obedience.
- C. Vss 3-7 give us one of the most imaginative descriptions of old age and death found anywhere in literature. Students don't agree on all the details of interpretation, but most of them do see here a picture of a house that is falling apart and finally turns to dust. A dwelling place is one biblical metaphor for the human body. *Warren Wiersbe*

III. Slide7 **DAYS OF DECLINE (1-8)**

- A. (1,2) Remember now your Creator - means more than *think about God*. *It means pay attention to, consider with the intention of obeying.*
 - 1. It is Solomon's version of Matthew 6:33, *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
- B. Slide8 In the days of your youth - we even know statistically, **youth** is the time to find God
 - 1. 43% *are born again* by age 13. 64% by age 18. 13% age 18-21. 23% age 21+
 - 2. It's giving God our *first fruits*, **but** not only of our finances, **but our very lives**.
- C. Slide9a (2) While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened – eyesight.
- D. Slide9b And the clouds do not return after the rain - diminished joy.
- E. Slide9c (3) keepers of the house tremble – arms & hands in which we use to defend ourselves with, now tremble.
- F. Slide9d Strong men bow down – legs & knees weaken & you start to bend over.
 - 1. (Stedman) *“It's when your knees buckle but your belt won't!”*

- G. **Slide9e Grinders cease** – start to loose your teeth.
- H. **Slide9f Look through the windows** – fading of the eyesight as old age approaches.
1. Cataracts form, various eye problems develop.
- I. **Slide9g (4) doors are shut in the street** – either hearing start to fail, or you keep your mouth shut because you lost your teeth.
1. Too many missing teeth & the doors of the face & lips start to fall in.
- J. **Slide9h-j Sound of the grinding is low** – (grinding already referred to as teeth) there's not too much sound when you gum your food. *No more Grape-Nuts.*
- K. **Slide9k Rise up at sound of bird** – You wish you could sleep longer but the littlest sound wakes you up in the morning. Can't get back to sleep.
- L. **Slide9l Daughters of music are brought low** – increased deafness, when the keyboard of the ear isn't playing music correctly anymore. Or, voice quivers.
- M. **Slide9m (5) afraid of height, & terrors in the way** – **Fears.** stay away from ladders & heights. Don't go out at night.
- N. **Slide9n Almond trees blossom** (what color is?) – what hair u have left turns white like almond blossoms.
- O. **Slide9o Grasshopper is a burden/draggs itself along.** ESV) – When you wake up in the morning you're stiff & get up a little slower each day.
- P. **Slide9p Desire fails** – All appetites start to fail. Sexual desire. Lil blue pill.
1. **Desire** in Biblical times, the *caperberry* was apparently supposed to have *aphrodisiac* properties. The Hebrew word *aviyonah*/אֲבִיוֹנָה for *caperberry* is closely linked to the Hebrew root *אבה*/avah, meaning *desire*. **The word occurs only here in the Bible.**
- Q. **Slide9q/r Man goes to his eternal home...the mourners mourn** – While you go home, people mourn your death.
- R. **Another Illustration: (6-8)**
- S. **Slide10 Golden bowl is broken** – some see the golden bowl as a small pottery lamp hanging from silver thread from ceiling or hook in house.
1. **Chain breaks** (fragile cord of life) & the light of life goes out.

- T. Pitcher shattered at the fountain or the wheel broken at the well – i.e. can't get the water up anymore...*then* life ceases.
- U. Slide11a (7) Dust – Gen.3:19 *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return*
1. When the machinery of life stops working, the water of life stops flowing, the heart stops pumping, the blood stops circulating, & death has come, the spirit leaves the body, the body begins to decay, then we eventually turn to dust.
(www, loose quote)
 2. Slide11b We've done a good job at **disguising** aging in our day. Glasses, contacts or lasik surgery. Bridges or dentures. With liposuction, reconstructions & augmentations. Nips/tucks. Face & neck lifts. Rhinoplasty & microdermabrasions. Artificial teeth & artificial hair...we can basically take ourselves apart & put us to bed.
- V. Where does your spirit go when you die? It returns to God who gave it.
1. Proof of life after death.
 2. Maybe passing into the next life could be **explained** as you would explain to a fetus about passing from his comfortable warm wet environment to an unknown world.
 - a) You will 1st feel like the world is pressing in on you. Then you're going to be pushed through a tight dark tunnel. You'll see a light at the end of the tunnel. People will be dressed in white to greet you. Your butt will be firmly slapped as a welcome. Your umbilical cord will be cut...but don't worry you don't need it anymore for you will breathe their air. You will have freedom to move around & not be restricted to one location. Oh, and there will be *a place prepared for you* (nursery).
- W. (8) Again, the emphasis is *emptiness to life w/o God*.
1. The book closes as it began. (1:2)
- X. Conclusion to this section: As you get older **pounds** are harder to lose, so your **teeth** start falling out so you don't eat as much. You don't **look as great** when all your teeth start to go, but that's ok, your **eyesight** starts to fade. **But** others see it...but then you start losing your **hearing** so you can't hear what they're saying about you. **And** even if you could...your **memory** starts to fade and you can't remember it any ways. *Jon Courson*

IV. Slide13 **DAYS OF LEARNING (9-12)**

- A. Someone said, *“Life is a school, except that sometimes you don’t know what the lessons are until you have failed the examination.”*
- B. Slide14a **5 steps to biblical exposition** (being a good bible teacher): Skip Heitzig
1. **Prioritizing** - because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge.
 2. Slide14b/c **Pondering** - he pondered & set out & set in order.
 - a) You're a *bridge builder* from the ancient to the modern world.
 - (1) So many gaps: *age/generational gap, culture, world views.*
 - b) A good preacher uses his **ears** as much as his **mouth**.
 - (1) Spurgeon, *I like sitting on my eggs for awhile & let them incubate.*
 - (2) **I think myself empty, I read myself full** (commentaries), **I write myself clear.**
 3. Slide14d **Preparing** - sought out & set in order many proverbs.
 - a) Find the dominant thought. The big idea. The theme.
 - b) Be able to say it in 1 sentence. *"Facing the storms of life"* (Disciples in boat on Galilee)
 - (1) Arrange material to serve that dominant thought.
 - c) A **ladder** has 2 sides (your text & the dominant thought).
 - (1) Easier to **remember**, easier to **hear**, easier to **listen** to it,
 - (2) Give them handles to hold onto. **Explain rungs** (points of message).
 - (3) **Make sure you organize it. Wood, metal, drywall doesn't make a building...until it's organized.**
 4. Slide14e **Persuading** - the preacher sought to find acceptable words.
 - a) Clear, understandable language (not *Harmartiaology*, but simply **sin**).
 - b) A *good introduction, humor, illustrations* makes truths stick.
 - c) Not *feed my giraffes, but feed my sheep* (Keep cookies on bottom shelf).
 5. Slide14f **Personalizing** - the words of the wise are like goads.
 - a) **Goads** - prick the animal to move. This is the *Application*.

- b) When Nathan said to David, *though art the man!* Not, *"I hope God applies this story to your heart."*
- c) Move from facts to principles. *i.e. Application.*
- d) Move from impersonal to personal. AIM rifle & pull trigger.

V. Slide15 **DAYS OF OBEDIENCE (13,14)**

- A. Like court scenes on TV...before the verdict is read there is usually a moment of silence...
We find the defendant.....guilty!
- B. Corrie Ten Boon *"The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration but its donation."*
- C. For your life to count...*do these 3 things:*
 - 1. Slide16 Fear God – Ecclesiastes **ends** where Proverbs *began* (1:7)
 - a) Fear God – an attitude of reverence & awe that we show to Him because we love & respect Him.
 - b) An **unholy fear** drives people away. A **holy fear** brings them to their knees in loving submission.
 - c) *"When you fear God, you fear nothing else; if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."* Oswald Chambers
 - 2. Keep His Commandments – Why keep His? – He created you – wrote the manual about you & how you work – knows how you need to be managed.
 - a) Wise is the person who reads & obeys the instruction annual!
 - 3. Prepare for final judgment – He shall judge the Rt. & the wicked (3:17).
 - a) Every work (*deed*) every secret thing (*hidden* thing).
 - b) *"Let His poker of purification burn to the marrow of your bones."*
- D. The Conclusion? – Don't limit yourself to looking "under" the sun...look Who's above it!
 - 1. Slide17 Fear Him. Obey Him. Love Him.