

Carpe Diem

Saturday, September 19, 2026
8:44 AM

Good morning, Arising Church,

THIS IS AN AMAZING TIME!

And we are standing at a pivotal time as a church. We have just come through an incredible season of teaching and equipping...

Ben Testimony about feast of tabernacles

WE HAVE COMPLETED:

- Marriage Teaching
- Parenting Teaching
- Singles Teaching
- The Feast of Tabernacles
- A purifying fire/sifting
- Exodus Foundations
- Daniel Foundations, and what it means to live as the people of God.

And now, because there are fewer scheduled meetings (no Wed or Sun nights) for a season, there may be a temptation to think... AH! FINALLY SOME TIME TO MYSELF!!

But what if the LORD did **not** give us all this amazing revelation so we could fill the time with our own personal kingdom activities? What if he gave us this space because we have been equipped to do the work, and he expects us to do something with it?

- **Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)**

18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

When you lose sight of what God has revealed, you can begin to live without restraint. You can drift. You can fill your lives with whatever is immediately enjoyable or convenient.

But when God's word and God's purposes remain before you, your life becomes ordered around what he has said.

So in moments like this, we do not invent new purposes...we go back to what the Father has already spoken to us!

On NYE, we gathered in this very place and looked back at everything the Lord had done in our body.

- Ministers are being raised up
- People are sharing the gospel
- We are building each other up
- We are praying, discipling, strengthening marriages, building families and handling the word of God correctly

We also recognized that the equipping was never meant to remain inside these four walls...IT IS THE YEAR OF THE SWORD AND BOW

Pastor James challenged us from Luke 10:2

- **Luke 10:2 (ESV)**
2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

We are not waiting for more qualified people...YOU are the people the LORD has been preparing. You are the messengers God is sending into the harvest

DO NOT READ

PIRKE AVOT 2:15-16A

"THE DAY IS SHORT. THE WORK IS MUCH. THE WORKERS ARE LAZY, THE WAGE IS HIGH, AND THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE PRESSES. YOU ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO COMPLETE THE WORK, BUT NEITHER ARE YOU FREE TO NEGLECT IT."

The words of Rabbi Tarfon were spoken:

"The day is short. The work is much. The workers are lazy, the wage is high, and the Master of the house presses. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to neglect it."

We must be like Jesus, whose satisfaction was doing the will of him who sent him and to finish the work.

The world tells us that satisfaction comes from having fewer responsibilities. It tells us that if we could have more time to ourselves, more comfort, fewer demands, then we would be finally fulfilled.

But Jesus said, I have food you know nothing about...

There is a satisfaction that comes from obeying the Father that comfort can never give you...

The opportunity is in front of us. Like Jesus we need to open our eyes to the harvest he sees.

The marriage and young people you can help

The brother you can strengthen

The disheartened, the weak, the unbeliever...
This is the field the father has placed in front of you.

The Title of our sermon today is: CARPE DIEM



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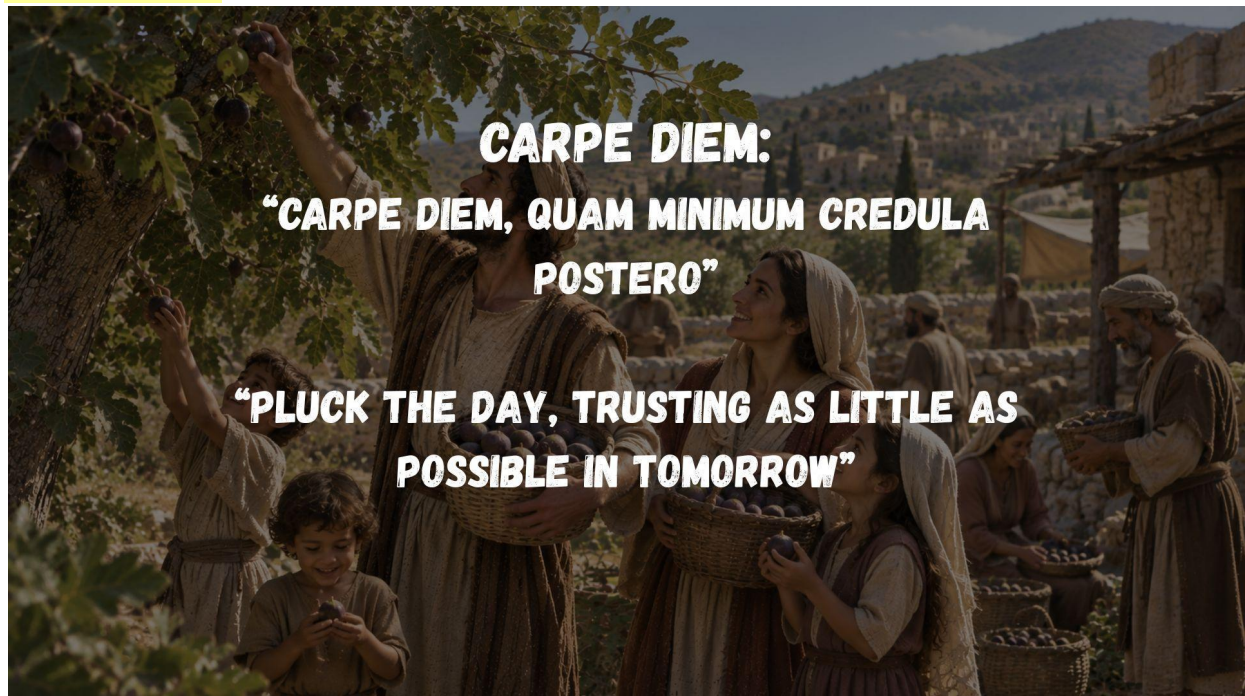
QUINTUS HORATIUS FLACCUS

QUINTUS HORATIUS FLACCUS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS HORACE LIVED BETWEEN THE YEARS 65–8 BC, AND HE WAS BORN TO A FREEDMAN, A FORMER SLAVE WHO HAD EARNED HIS FREEDOM. HE SERVED AS A SOLDIER IN THE LEGIONS DURING THE ROMAN CIVIL WARS, AND THEN AS A GOVERNMENT CLERK AROUND THE TIME OF AUGUSTUS. HE EXPERIENCED CIVIL WAR, MILITARY DEFEAT, LOSS OF STATUS, AND ENORMOUS POLITICAL CHANGE, YET BECAME A POET FAMOUS FOR MODERATION, FRIENDSHIP, AND ACCEPTING LIFE'S UNCERTAINTY. WHILE HORACE WAS A PAGAN, YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE ECCLESIASTES 3:11 PLAYED OUT IN HIS LIFE, THAT ETERNITY HAS BEEN PLACED INTO THE HEART OF EVERY MAN. EVEN WITH HIS PAGAN WORLDVIEW, ETERNAL, BIBLICAL TRUTHS WERE CLEARLY DISPLAYED IN HIS WRITINGS THAT PEOPLE STILL LOOK BACK ON TO THIS DAY.



Quintus Horatius Flaccus, more commonly known as Horace, lived between the years 65-8 BC, and he was born to a freedman, a former slave who had earned his freedom. He served as a soldier in the legions during the Roman Civil Wars, and then as a government clerk around the time of Augustus. He experienced civil war, military defeat, loss of status, and enormous political change, yet became a poet famous for moderation, friendship, and accepting life's uncertainty. While Horace was a pagan, you can clearly see Ecclesiastes 3:11 played out in his life, that eternity has been placed into the heart of every man. Even with his pagan worldview, eternal, biblical truths were clearly displayed in his writings that people still look back on to this day!

DO NOT READ



Horace gave us the phrase everyone knows — *carpe diem*, "seize the day." But his full line was longer: "seize the day, trusting as little as possible in tomorrow." That's not permission to indulge — it's a warning against banking your life on a future you don't own. *Carpe* literally means "pluck," like fruit taken the moment it's ripe.

Horace wasn't saying grab whatever you want. He was saying: recognize what's ripe right now, and take it — because tomorrow isn't guaranteed to you.

Many times when I have used this or I have heard people use this phrase it is about doing something crazy...like a spontaneous vacation or jumping off a waterfall...etc...

Horace wrote something iconic, but as we know, ANY good TRUTH comes only from what the Word of God has always said. Scripture had been teaching people how to live faithfully in the present long before Horace ever wrote the words Carpe Diem.

In fact, listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:33–34 (ESV)

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Jesus tells us what to do with today: seek first the kingdom of God. And then He tells us what to do with tomorrow: entrust it to the Father.

Horace said to trust as little as possible in tomorrow because tomorrow is uncertain. Jesus says not to worry about tomorrow because your Father is trustworthy.

This is not a call to live recklessly. It is a call to live life full of faith. It is not permission to grab whatever pleasure is available today. It is a command to give God’s kingdom first claim upon today.

That same wisdom runs through Ecclesiastes 11.

○ **Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 (NLT)**

1 Send your grain across the seas,
and in time, profits will flow back to you.

In other words, release what God has placed in your hands. Put it to work. Invest it. You cannot receive a harvest from seed you refuse to release.

2 But divide your investments among many places,

for you do not know what risks might lie ahead.

3 When clouds are heavy, the rains come down.

Whether a tree falls north or south, it stays where it falls.

Do you see how he is reminding us that some things are simply beyond our control...life contains realities that we cannot prevent...

4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant.

If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

Ben Testimony...I am always looking for perfect conditions to do what God has put on my heart and sometimes we don't get a say in what situations look like.

- ***I don't know enough...***
- ***My house isn't big enough...***
- ***I want this person to hear what I have to say but not that person...***
- ***Our schedule is too packed...***
- ***My kids look at me blankly whenever I share the word...Are they even getting anything??***

5 Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things.

What is the same as the wind and a baby growing in its mother's womb??

You can't see what is happening...You don't know everything God is doing. You don't know how God will use a conversation or an act of service. Instead we have to be willing servants.

6 Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.

This is what CARPE DIEM is...plucking the fruit God has placed within reach of each of us every day...keep sowing, keep serving, keep using the time and the amazing training that God has given us to invest in people.

Or maybe even more simply...

Seize/pluck the day by investing your temporary life on earth in people who are eternal.

Carpe Diem means that I will recognize what God has made ready today.

Let's go to Psalm 90 (turn in Bible's)

- **Psalm 90:3–6 (ESV)**

3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

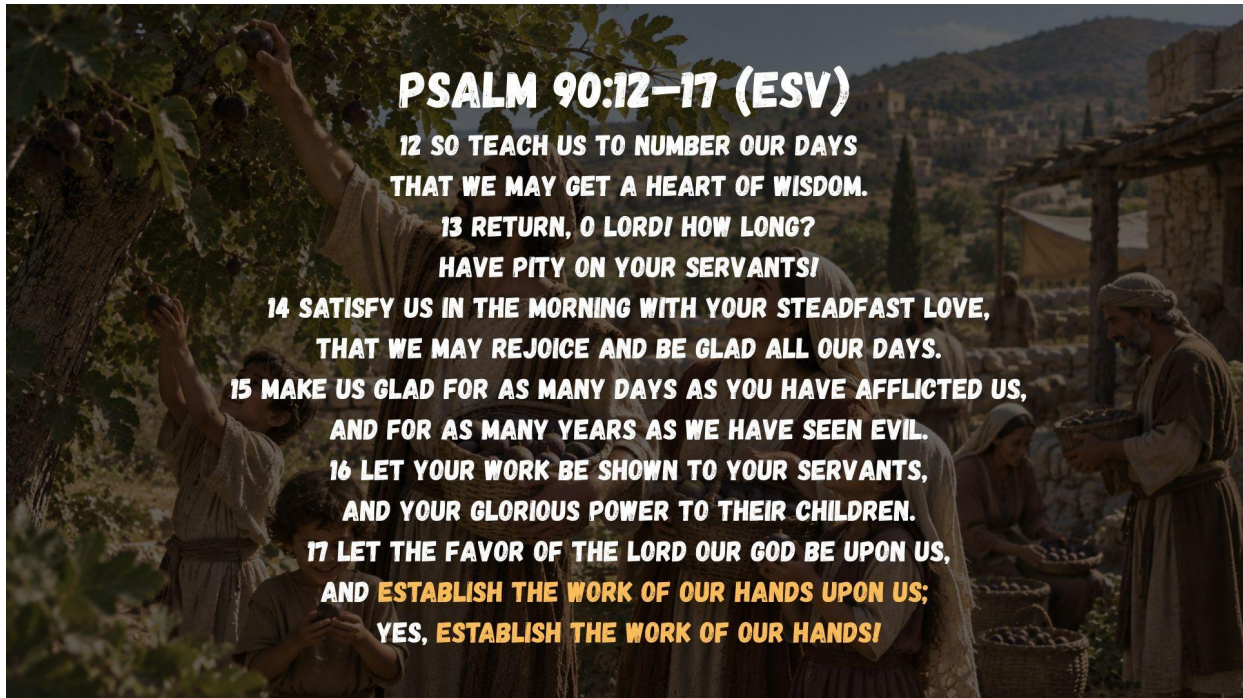
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

Time is fleeting...a thousands years are like a day to the Lord, our lives are like the passing of the night, as fragile as grass. The time for fruitful ministry is today not tomorrow.

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○ Psalm 90:12–17 (ESV)

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and **establish the work of our hands upon us;**
yes, **establish the work of our hands!**

Teach us to number our days...take advantage of the time you have right now this fall. Numbering your days brings wisdom—how? Wisdom with what to spend your time doing.

It goes on to say “satisfy us with your love” —what does that have to do with numbering our days? When we number our days and use them for HIS purposes,

the cares of the world, your appetite changes. We're not talking whole 30....We're talking what satisfies you changes. His love and loving the things He loves (people) begins to be what satisfies you.

Let your work be shown to your servants...pray for revelation about the ministry you are called to do.

Establish the work of our hands!! What is it you pray for most often?

- Health?
- Wealth?
- Comfort from affliction?
- For you work to be established...your mezuzah walked out in greater capacities?

When you ask - He will answer. Moses was praying this in Midian, and the next thing we know that happened in His life?

◦ **Exodus 3:9 (NIV)**

9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

When you walk in obedience even if you're afraid or doubtful he will help you.

As you now this is a big week for the church. After service the Slaughter property is doing a big shift! Also on Saturday the Allens and Scotts will move!

This seemed impossible a few months ago. We were afraid, doubtful at times. But! We moved forward in faith and Joy hasn't had a seizure in a month. We're not out of the woods by any means, but HE IS ESTABLISHING HIS WORK IN US and giving us supernatural help to accomplish it.

This calls for faith saints. Faith to work the ground He has called you to even when it looks impossible or too difficult. This is Ecc 11:4 —farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. It's time to seize the day, regardless of the conditions.

- **Ephesians 5:15–17 (NIV)**

- 15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,
 - 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
 - 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

The days are evil, and our actions are too if we spend them unwisely. This is the same thing Moses wrote in Psalm 90 about asking the Lord what HIS work is...we must understand what the Lord’s will is for our lives—our days—our hours.

We are going to take this time and build up our church...we are going to revisit a few points from a sermon several years ago called Equip, Work, Build that was on our Church’s mission.

- **1 Kings 5:5 (NIV)**

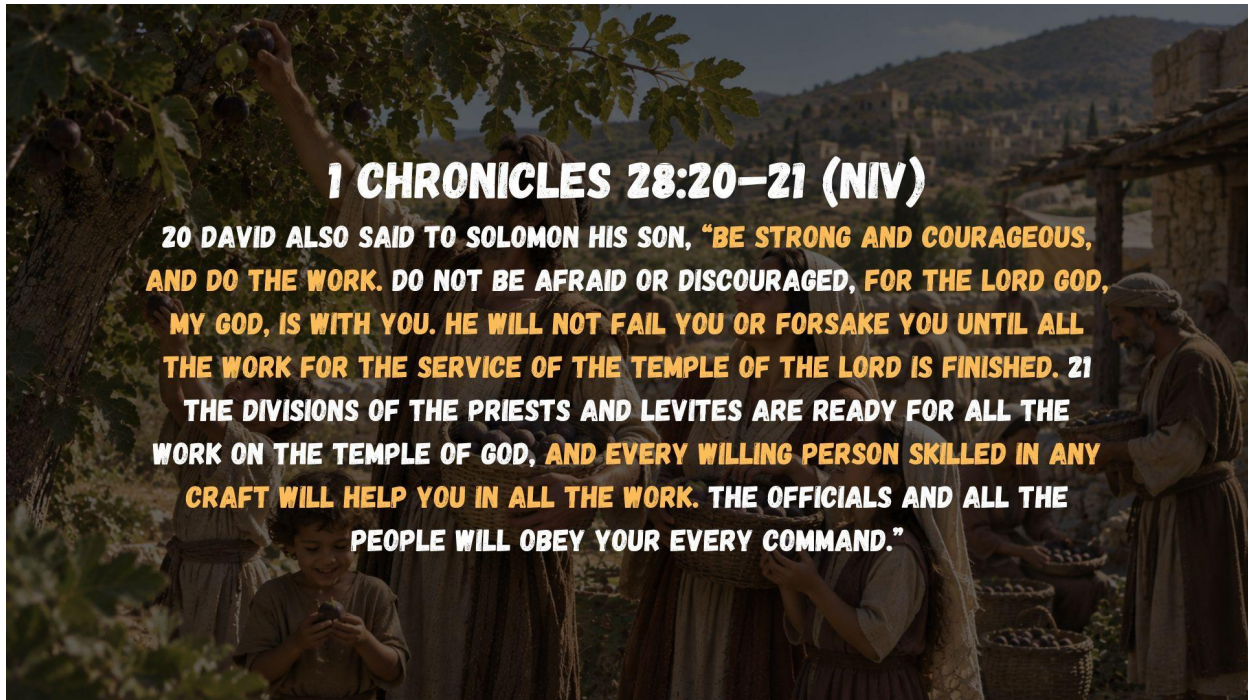
- 5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, ‘Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.’

Solomon did not invent the building project.

The plan came through his father...David lived a life focused on the Work of the Lord and he spent everything he had to complete it. He took after Moses and asked the Lord to show him HIS work so David could do it. You can see this in Psalm 25:4

- **Psalm 25:4 (ESV)**

- 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.



1 CHRONICLES 28:20–21 (NIV)

20 DAVID ALSO SAID TO SOLOMON HIS SON, **"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, AND DO THE WORK. DO NOT BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD GOD, MY GOD, IS WITH YOU. HE WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR FORSAKE YOU UNTIL ALL THE WORK FOR THE SERVICE OF THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD IS FINISHED. 21 THE DIVISIONS OF THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES ARE READY FOR ALL THE WORK ON THE TEMPLE OF GOD, AND EVERY WILLING PERSON SKILLED IN ANY CRAFT WILL HELP YOU IN ALL THE WORK. THE OFFICIALS AND ALL THE PEOPLE WILL OBEY YOUR EVERY COMMAND."**

○ 1 Chronicles 28:20–21 (NIV)

20 David also said to Solomon his son, **"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished. 21** The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and **every willing person skilled in any craft will help you in all the work.** The officials and all the people will obey your every command."

So amazing...

- We will be strong and do the work
- God is with us and will not forsake us until the work is finished
- Every willing person...the willing build the kingdom...

Solomon had officers, stonecutters, burden-bearers, woodcutters, they were not all doing the same thing, but they were all building the same house.

Solomon knew what the vision was, gathered those who were skilled and willing, and assigned them to different tasks according to their giftings.

We are not building an actual physical temple. WE are being built into a Spiritual House as we work together to build each other up. The people are the temple and the workers!

Unity does not mean everyone performs the same task. Unity means that everyone uses what the Father has given them toward the same purpose.

Ephesians 4:8–13 (ESV)

8 Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Paul says that the saints are equipped for the work of ministry so that the body of Christ may be “built up.” The Greek word is *oikodomē*. It is the language of constructing a house, but Paul applies it to people. As we use what the Father has given us to strengthen and mature one another, God is building us together into a spiritual house—a dwelling place for His presence.

This is why Scripture repeatedly returns to the imagery of a temple. But God’s ultimate desire was never just to inhabit a physical building. Even Solomon recognized the limitations of the magnificent temple he had built. At its dedication, he prayed:

○ **1 Kings 8:27**

“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!”

Solomon had built one of the most glorious structures on the earth, yet he understood that no structure made by human hands could contain the presence of God.

And yet this God, whom even the highest heavens cannot contain, has chosen to dwell among His people. He is building us together into His house. That means when we strengthen a marriage, disciple a younger believer, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, or teach someone to obey Jesus, we are doing more than improving another person's life. We are participating in the construction of God's dwelling place.

This is why the church exists. This is why God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. This is why you are here: to be equipped for the work of ministry so that the saints are built up and brought to maturity.

Psalm 68 connection?

In 2 Cor 4, Paul gives us another reason why we should spend our limited lives building others up:

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- **2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV)**

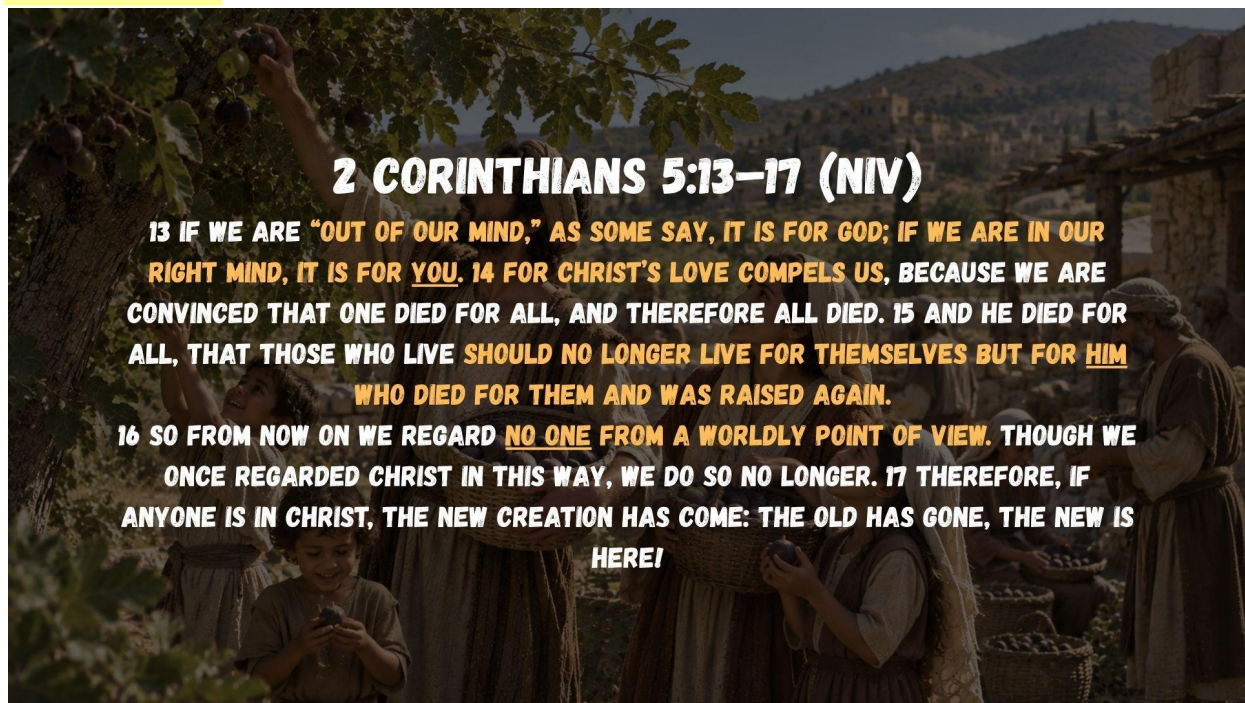
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

- The world says, Carpe Diem! Life is short so experience everything while you can...
- God says, Carpe Diem! Life is short so invest it in what is actually eternal.

The eternal things in this room are not our schedules, houses, hobbies, possessions, or entertainment...it is the PEOPLE around us who will enter eternity...nothing comes into eternity with them...

How do you do this? This is not natural...but supernatural...Paul explains:

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- **2 Corinthians 5:13–17 (NIV)**
13 If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he

died for all, that those who live **should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

16 So from now on we regard **no one from a worldly point of view.**

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

You will never pluck the opportunity to minister to people if you continue seeing them in the flesh. That difficult person is an eternal person. That immature person is someone Christ is forming. That child, spouse, neighbor, coworker, or discouraged brother is someone who Christ died for.

This is why Paul can say this in

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○ 2 Corinthians 12:14–15 (NIV)

14 Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but **you**. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 **So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?**

Paul did not just spend money on people (ALL OF HIS MONEY). He spent himself...

His time

His strength

His Affection

His Tears

His Prayers

His Teaching

Were invested in eternal people.

Carpe diem is how much of what God has placed in me can I faithfully pour into others today?

Do you see yourself as the recipient of these verses or the giver? Do you expect to come to church and have everyone else spend themselves for you? Or do you come in wanting to spend yourself for everyone else?

Challenge:

1. Take one of the nights we used to have church—Sunday or Wednesday and devote it to ministry.
2. Before the end of the year try your best to invite someone who does not attend this church into your home.
3. Shalom Bayit

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Solomon got his building plans from His father and we're going to do the same.

Two times in LCM's history they have joined together as a family in what they call *Shalom Bayit*—which means Shalom in the Home.

In addition to the first two challenges, this is the third. The leadership team is committing to have dinner with every household in the church. This is going to bond us to you, and you to us. Over dinner, the leadership team and all of you will bring to the meeting

- 5 unique prayer requests

The best part is—you all will be hosting.

Make WHATEVER YOU WANT - we WILL EAT IT. Make whatever represents your family best :)

Matt's explanation.