

Sharing

Community Bible Study

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Spring 2004

The Days Go Swiftly By

People often think of seniors as a generation with all the time in the world on their hands. They're retired. They don't have to go to work every day so there should be no sense of urgency in anything they do.



Helen Cornell

In reality, the opposite is true. As a senior citizen, I can tell you that our days are precious, flying swiftly by and in many cases, dwindling rapidly.


In a musical based on the courtship of the Plymouth Colony's governor, Miles Standish, and a maiden named Priscilla Mullins, the elderly Standish seeks to justify his marriage to a young girl. He sings *September Song* (Anderson/Weill), "The days dwindle down to a precious few: September, November. And these few precious days I'll spend with you."

As my days dwindle down also, how I spend them becomes increasingly important. Should I be in Community Bible Study this year? After all, I know I have salvation in Jesus Christ alone. I know I must love and help my neighbor, attend church to worship God, and fellowship with other Christians. Do I need to fill my poor old brain with any more Bible knowledge?

When I was a young woman, I heard an old pastor who had spent his entire life in the study of the Scriptures reply to the comment, "Pastor Pete, why do you need to study the Bible? Surely you know it by heart." He smiled and said, "I'm cramming for my finals."

Christians are commanded to study God's Word. Colossians 2:8 says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic

principles of this world rather than on Christ." There is an abundance of hollow and deceptive philosophy around these days, and if I am not fixing my mind firmly on the message of God, I will get off track. Paul challenges Titus to "hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it" (Titus 1:9). He tells Timothy to be "a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). And Jesus answered the Pharisees saying, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?" (Mark 12:24). We have all met people who, not knowing what the Bible says about God, make up their own deity. It may not look like a golden calf, but it might as well be one. Those who say, "My god wouldn't do this or act like that" are filling up their golden calf with their preconceived notions and prejudices, and are worshiping them, calling it "god."

So, the question to myself is not, "Do I need to study the Bible," but "Am I studying it enough?" As my days dwindle down to a precious few, am I spending them learning more about the One with whom I will spend eternity? Am I growing, maturing, preparing for the kingdom of God that awaits? Whenever we search for God in the Bible, we are maturing in our Christian faith. As long as we continue to learn, we continue to grow. What I am doing in Community Bible Study this year is spending these precious days studying the Bible with other believers, readying myself to spend eternity with my Lord. In other words, I'm cramming for my finals. 


Helen Cornell
Core Leader
Sun City, Arizona

A Personal Word...

Teach Us to Number our Days

I'm finding that I am far more conscious today of Psalm 90:10-17 and Isaiah 46:4, "Even to your old age...and to gray hairs I will carry you" (English Standard Version). Maybe it is because I am approaching my 61st birthday, or maybe it is because my beautiful mother is 89, or maybe it is simply because the Lord wants to remind me to finish strong.

Psalm 90:14 asks the Lord to "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." I have heard my mother reflect on our sons and their families. She sees them as in their prime of life – growing together in the Lord and experiencing all the joys of their mid-thirties and forties. That is true! However, I know others in their prime who have been let go from their careers through buyouts, etc., yet they have made wise choices as to how they spend their extra time while waiting for their next paying position. These men have chosen to study God's Word deeply and then to give those truths out to others. The visiting teacher in our "Primetimers" Sunday School class at church is one of those servants of the Lord. He is younger than all of us, yet serves as an example of so numbering your days to present to the Lord a heart of wisdom.

I would encourage each of you to read Psalm 90. This powerful Psalm challenged me, and I began to pray last summer that Bill and I would be "glad all our days," (v. 14) however long or short that may be. I also pray that our children will see God's work through us and that God will show His power to our nine grandchildren as a testimony of His faithfulness. We desire that "the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands" (v. 17). After all, as Helen so beautifully wrote, we are "cramming for our finals." 



Camilla Seabolt
Executive Director

...from Camilla

CBS is committed to being good stewards of the funds with which we are entrusted, and the cost saving measure of this abbreviated issue of *Sharing* will help toward fulfilling that end. It will also help to make our database information current with additions, deletions, as well as address changes. Please look for a full *Sharing* in June with a complete CBS class list. In the meantime, remember to check our website www.communitybiblestudy.org for past issues and for new articles that will be posted on a regular basis.

If you would like information for yourself, a family member, or a friend about one of our classes, please contact

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