

Calendars

I was looking at the calendar for the upcoming year. Yours may have pictures of golf courses, or cats, or cars, or no pictures at all. There are twelve separate parts of the calendar for there are 12 months in the year. As you look at each month you will see a common pattern. There are seven columns to represent the 7 days of the week. Some months will have four rows and others 5. Depending on the number of days in the month and what day of the week the month starts will determine the rows.

A calendar is both a map and a piece of history. It contains the days ahead that we may or may not see. Our life is uncertain, a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away, James 4.14. Peter compares us to the flowers and grass that withers and passes away, 1 Peter 2.24. Each day you can look in the obituaries in the newspaper for those who will not see another day. We do not know what will happen in the future in our lives. No wonder the Psalmist says, "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. Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalms 90:10-12) As the past year has proven, life is not only brief, it is uncertain.

Each block that is created by the columns and rows are individual days. Where we will go, what we will do, who we will meet, are not known at the present time. We may have specific dates circled or notes written to remind us of appointments and their times, but most days are left blank. Each day will provide us with unknown temptations, task, joys, sorrows, and triumphs. While each day is brief, each one is important.

A calendar is also a piece of history. As we use each day, each block contains what we have done, whether we write it down or not does not matter. You may have a calendar with birthdays, and anniversaries of family members. I have the calendar of 1986. It was the year that Regena and I met. Circled was the Sunday that Regena came into the church building with her grandmother. The day that I flew out to Tulsa to spend a week with her and her family are there, as well as when she flew back to Indiana and I proposed to her.

The Bible speaks of our deeds being written down and the judgment to come. "And I saw the dead, small and great standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20.12). What will this next year be like? We do not know and it may be good that we are unaware of what lies ahead. But it will be ours to use and to give account of. Let us make sure we are headed in the right direction and leave behind a good calendar.- Dennis Tucker