



## **THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS:** ***Keeping Life's Milestones in Perspective***

*A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles*

Years ago, stones were set up beside a road to mark the distance in miles to a particular place. The stones were called “milestones.” Today, the word milestone is commonly used to mark a significant event, change or stage in development. In the journey of life we experience many significant events or changes that become personal milestones, or markers, for our lives.

The month of June has historically been a milestone month for many of us: It marks the halfway point of the year; Flag Day will commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States; school will be over; some will graduate; summer vacation will begin; Father’s Day will be celebrated; marriages will be consecrated; anniversaries will be remembered; birthdays will be observed; and so much more! One thing for sure is that June is another month given to us by God and that we should value each day we are given, as noted in Psalm 118:24, *“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”*

As we pause to meditate on our lives we realize there are innumerable milestones we have experienced, some good, some insignificant, some bad and some that have changed our lives forever. What are the milestones of *your* life? What milestones do *you* desire as you look to the future?

As you consider your milestones it might be helpful to group them into categories that are relevant to you. Some examples follow: Spiritual milestones: Reading; prayer; baptism; areas of service to the Church; areas of service to others; ordinations; or blessings. Natural milestones: Finances; education; employment; or thanks. Personal milestones: health; relationships; marriage; family; or success.

Are you satisfied with the time and value placed on each category? If the answer is yes, you are blessed! If you feel that you should have done more and achieved more (as most of us do!) we encourage you to look forward and set goals to do better. The Word of God can help us place our efforts in perspective.

If you are young, Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them...”*

If you are old, Psalm 37:25 says, *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”* This is a wonderful promise God has given to

those that love and serve Him. No matter the circumstances of our lives, in the good times and the bad times, God will not forsake us! He will carry us through every circumstance, all the way to Paradise to be with Him for eternity, if we endure to the end!

If you have not given your life to the Lord, Alma 5:49 says, *“And now I say unto you that this is the order after which I am called, yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren, yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land; yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free; yea, I say unto you the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generation; yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again.”*

If you are lacking in your Spiritual life, Alma 34:32-33 says, *“For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.”*

Our prayers for all who read this message are that God will bless your lives with the understanding that the most important thing any of us can do, at any age or status of life, is to follow the counsel given in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you.”*

Here is a challenge for you: Complete a new milestone in each relevant category of your life by June, 2017. Pick out some new pursuits to monitor over the year. Suggestions follow:

Spiritual Goals: Ask for your baptism; become a Sunday School or MBA class teacher; accept a Branch office; sing in the choir; visit the shut-ins; complete a scripture reading program; challenge yourself to achieve perfect attendance at all Branch, Region and Area meetings; attend and share your prayers openly at prayer meetings; host an open house for the young people; pray for the nation and the world; glorify God each time you testify; sign up for Gospel Email and Gospel Blog, read them every day, pray immediately to honor prayer requests; or mentor someone.

Natural Goals: Get a job; retire; read a classic book; start donating to the Church on a regular basis or increase your Church donations by at least \$10 per month; spend less on luxuries and increase personal savings; support a worthy cause; be early to work; volunteer at a hospital; join a service club; or plant a garden.

Personal Goals: Eat healthy foods; exercise 150 minutes a week; get more sleep; be quick to apologize and ready to forgive; buy flowers for no reason; do something special with your family on a regular basis; share a testimony of God’s goodness in your life; practice random acts of kindness with strangers; everyday tell your family you love them; call a friend; write a letter; spend less time on Facebook and more time reading the “Two Sticks;” or serve breakfast in bed.

Psalm 90:10 reminds us that we will not live forever: *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”* May God bless all of us with wisdom and the desire to do better as we enjoy the days of our years!

In the Love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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