

## *Saturday "Sermon"*

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### **"Pass in Review"**

I lived in Newport, Rhode Island for a year while in various kinds of training for the Navy. One of the weekly events at Officer Candidate School was called "PIR," an acronym for "Pass in Review." Every Friday afternoon, all four battalions of us put on freshly-pressed uniforms with freshly-polished brass and freshly-spit-shined shoes, cleaned up our weapons, marched smartly around the drill field, and then stood in formation for a good while so the Commandant could review his troops.

The most anxious part of PIR was the moment when the Commandant stood directly in front of me, looking me over from head to toe, making sure that my hair was regulation-cut, that I knew how to properly wear the uniform, and so on. If deficiencies were noted, these were written down in "the book," after which there would be another reckoning.

Conducting a personal "Pass in Review" can help us tidy our priorities wherever we are in life. When it comes to using our days well, the National Center for Health Statistics tells us that, on average, if you're 30, you've got 581 months left. At age 40, you've got 460 months. At age 50, 338 months remain. At age 60, you're down to 216 months, and at age 70, to 95 months. And if you're older than 78, well, you're on borrowed time.<sup>1</sup>

Another way to look at this is that if you're 40 years old, you've got 1,840 Saturdays left. That's it. Wow. I want to be sure I don't waste my time.

But contrary to what you might think, "not wasting time" doesn't necessarily mean spending your days in overtly religious pursuits. Living well is not about "being religious." Living well is about being passionately alive and in love with the Creator of apples and asteroids, bamboo and beetles, grapefruit and galaxies, wildebeests and waterfalls, supremely revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, and Who loves us with an everlasting and unbelievably passionate love!

If we've placed our faith in Jesus, we don't have to sweat life's final accounting, though there will be one (cp. John 5:24). For believers, the question is not one of salvation, but of reward. We'll be admitted to the Heavenly City on the strength of Jesus' Blood alone, and there is no other way; but what we'll experience in that City depends on what we've done with the days we had here.

So where are you? Are you caught up "in the thick of thin things," or is your life counting for something that is significant both in time and in eternity? How does your "Pass in Review" situation look today?

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<sup>1</sup> [www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/lifexpec.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/lifexpec.htm)