

Chat With The Chaplain

Your days are numbered! So are mine. That becomes painfully obvious when you're ridin' into Spokane at 6am on a workday. You'd swear there was a target on your leathers. We've probably all made that comment about our days being numbered at different times, not knowing that what we had said was actually Biblical. In Psalm 139: 15,16, it says "My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy Book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them". It's just possible that we may have cracked open a theological can of worms here, so let's shine some light in. What this all means is that because God exists outside the constraints of time He is able to know and see the days that we will spend here on this earth. Put another way, God can 'declare' them. In Isaiah 46:9,10 it says, ".....I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things which are not yet done....." So the question is asked does God choose when we die, and the answer to that is 'No'. How can I say that? We all know about Sodom and Gomorrah, but that was a Divinely orchestrated course correction due to the all encompassing evil in those cities. God has created each one of us with free will and the capacity to make choices along the way which impact our lives and in some cases determines length and quality. The Bible tells us about things we can do that will shorten our lives, or lengthen them. In Ephesians 6:2,3 it says, " Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise); that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth". There's a choice for you. Also, what we speak can affect how long we live. Proverbs 18:21 says, " Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit ". It's pretty clear that the spoken word can be very powerful.

Before I wander off on a rabbit trail here, I want to drop back to the beginning and take another look at Psalm 139 where it says "..... and in Thy Book they were all written....." In the original Hebrew, the word for 'book' is 'sefer', and in the Greek New Testament Scriptures the word is 'biblion'. They both refer to a scroll, or a rolled parchment. We could say that God's 'Book of Days' for you and me could also be called a 'Scroll of Days'. And, because God has written in them, then they contain the Word of God, the Will of God, and the Plans of God. So then, we might ask how can the 'Scroll' reveal these things to us? We can only see God's plans for our lives as life unfolds, or, as the Scroll unrolls. It's not anything like the books we're used to where you might be able to jump ahead a few chapters and get all the answers. In reality, that's just as well. If we were to be shown all that lies ahead, there are three things that are guaranteed to happen. We wouldn't understand it, we wouldn't be able to deal with it, and we'd try to change something. That being said, I'm thinking that the cockpit is best left to the Pilot. It should leave us slack jawed when we are told in God's Word that He was thinking about us and writing about us long before we became part of the human gene pool.

There's plenty that I don't know, but one thing I do know---God loves each one of us with a love that we simply cannot comprehend. His Word says so. In Ephesians 2:10 it says," For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them". And, in Jeremiah 29:11 it says," For I know the plans I have for you' Declares the Lord, ' Plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope". If you have put your trust in Christ, His 'plans' for you include the choices that you make along the way, which is your free will. I'd love to have someone this side of Glory explain to me exactly how that works!

"Now may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". (Romans 15:13) Wanted - More Bikers In Heaven!