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A Voice from the Past

Although we do not usually quote pagan poets, Horace's frequently coined phrase "*carpe diem*" (**seize the day**) seems relevant for redemption in our day. Social media venues are replete with people stressed by the quarantine. While schedules and plans may be in shambles, are we the only ones who had 1,001+ commitments or projects to undertake from home while cutting expenses? For us, fewer public visits yield unexpected times with family, less hurried communion with the Lord, new computer skills, and repaired goods. Making the proverbial 'lemonade from lemons' lets us check up on neighbors, correspond or speak with friends in crisis, evaluate personal habits, share valuable resources, and even handle the often-ignored home or vehicle upkeep! These possibilities, of course, are *not* for any overrun with extra work responsibilities.

We pray those heroes will receive additional grace and stamina. We thank the Lord for being among visionary Americans. Many transform factories and create ingenious ways to meet the needs of our country and the world!

A View for the Future

If quarantined, perhaps this pandemic reminds you, as it does us, of Biblical ways to "*seize the day*." We evaluate to be sure a 'hamster wheel of activity' has not become the rule of our lives. According to studies, countless hours of binge TV watching or gaming prove more often stressful or destructive than restful. Reflection after accomplishing worthwhile activity has no parallel in bringing healing. We relearn the daily choice taught by Moses' prayer in <u>Psalm 90:12</u>: "*number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* We re-order "to-do" priorities yet again for the sake of the Kingdom of God. We have even considered a "do-over" of some routines as Tim Challies urges in <u>this thought-provoking article.</u> Let us not waste the opportunity our Father offers His children to "*seize the day*" for His glory and our good!

Prayer & Praise:

- 30 days of Ramadan began at sundown on April 23 for Muslims all over the world. Pray that Jesus will increasingly reveal Himself as Savior to many of them.
- A crown in Verlin's mouth broke on April 10. We rejoice that a dentist in Cookeville began the several-month process to place an implant. Verlin spent a week applying tropical care solutions like oil pulling with ground cloves, turmeric, and moringa leaf powder in seed oil.
- Let us pray for each other to see how to Biblically "seize the day" in our circumstances.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin and Debbie Anderson

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