

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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Let me check my calendar... This seems to be a standard response I send out often in response to a request for a meeting. And when I check my calendar, looking at schedules made and schedules kept, I am frequently reminded of the passing of time. Which sets my mind to thinking...where has the time gone? And in the passage of time, where has my life gone? In some of my most reflective moments, I have desired that in some way I could have accessed a pause button that could have enabled time to be stopped in the most joyful times of my life. In those times I long to have lingered for a season, taking full advantage of those periods where everything seems right and good and complete. Instead of times when life seems to be passing me by. Sadly, there's no pause buttons to push...time only moves one way...and takes our life with it as it moves along. Sometimes it's like a fast moving Amtrak. And sometimes it's like a lumbering and lurching freight train.

Those are the times when suffering seems to apply the brakes and the days of dealing with physical afflictions and grievous loss and reversals of fortune seems to drag along. These are times when we wish time would move a little faster, bringing recovery and restoration quickly. Sometimes we endure our living just wishing the day we're enduring would quickly pass. Perhaps tomorrow will be better. As we approach this New Year being reminded of the calendar, we reflect on this thing called time...and wonder if we are making the most of it. Or we may question whether time is making a mockery out of our feeble efforts to control it, manage it, or maximize it. Truly there is only one Master of time...and everything can change when we encounter Him. Consider the following:

As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God. (Luke 18:35-43)

When I read about the meeting between this blind beggar and Jesus of Nazareth, I don't believe that he had to check his calendar to make the appointment. This man was living out his time as time dragged on. Day to day, his life compounded by misery, hope is what he needed. And Hope is made for hearing. ***They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.*** I love that part of the passage. When is the last time that you heard about hope? When the blind beggar heard of Jesus...hope came into his life. Jesus asked him about his desire. The blind man believed something about the Nazarene that others were blind to. *There is hope in the King of God's Kingdom.* As the man sat by the road begging...he heard about Life passing by bringing hope and he believed. This man appealed to the Son of David. He knew Jesus could help him. No home remedies could be applied or self-help effort could restore his sight. Only Jesus...and His word. He believed before Jesus spoke the word that healed him. The reality is that hope is made for hearing. And hope is activated by faith. Faith comes from hearing...and hearing by the word of Christ. For those of us who have lost hope...let your ears hear about Jesus...let your mouth cry out to Him...*Son of David...have mercy on me...* Believe and trust that the word of God has portrayed the Lord faithfully. Believing that Jesus passing by wherever you are is not only the good news of the gospel... it's the best news of our day.

Check your calendar this New Year...spend more of that time that's passing by encountering Jesus, the Word of God. Don't let life pass you by missing out on the Life that passes by. Follow King Jesus. He's on the move and going somewhere. You can't get home without Him!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam