

Evening Lesson

ARE YOU LOSING YOUR MARBLES?

Eph. 5:15, 16

“Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you’re busy with your job... ‘Let me tell you something, Tom, which has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities.’”

That’s when he began to explain his theory of a thousand marbles. “You see,” he said, “I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about 75 years. I know, some live more and some less, but on average, folks live about 75 years.”

“I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900 which is the number of Saturdays the average person has in an entire lifetime. Stick with me Tom; I’m getting to the important part. It took me until I was 55 to think this through in detail, and by then, I had already used over 2,800 Saturdays. I figured that if I lived to be 75, I had about a thousand Saturdays left to enjoy.”

“So I went out and bought 1,000 marbles and put them in a large, clear plastic container here in my workshop next to the radio. Every Saturday since, I take one marble out and throw it away. By watching my marbles diminish, I focused on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time on earth run out to help you get your priorities straight.”

“One last thing before I sign off and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning I took the last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then God has blessed me with a little extra time to be with my loved ones. It was nice to talk to you Tom. I hope you spend more time with your loved ones. Have a good morning.”

You could have heard a pin drop when he finished. I had planned to do some work that morning and then go to the gym. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife with a kiss. ‘C’mon honey, I’m taking you and the kids to breakfast.’

‘What brought this on?’ she asked with a smile. I said, ‘It just has been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we’re out?’ I said. ‘I need to buy some marbles.’”