

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

May 29, 2022

Birthdays

Birthdays are the anniversaries of the day of one's birth. We all have them whether we celebrate them or not. A birthday is only referenced twice in the Bible. *"Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's **birthday**, that he made a feast for all his servants..." (Genesis 40:20). "Then an opportune day came when Herod on his **birthday** gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee (Mark 6:21).*

Birthday celebrations can be joyous occasions with family and friends enjoying parties, cakes, games, and presents. We usually have special celebrations for a baby's first birthday, sweet sixteen, forty and over the hill, the big 5-0, and the 100-century mark if one is able to live that long. Birthdays also remind us of important lessons of life.

1. Markers of Time — Each birthday is a marker of passing time. We need these markers or we could lose our touch with reality. We cannot live in the past, nor can we escape into the future. We must seize the moment that is ours right now, and birthdays remind us that the only time we have is now, today, this moment. The age, time, ability, and opportunities you have are for your use now. Each day is a blessing to be used to the fullest. *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil"* (Eph. 5:15-16).

2. The Years are Passing By—As we go through the years of our youth, we can't wait until our next birthday occurs. But then the birthdays start coming at light speed, flashing past faster than we can count them. Indeed, the years pass swiftly as more birthdays come and go. In reality, time passes at the same speed for everyone, but our perception of it is different. Some want time to hurry, and it appears to pass slowly; others want it to pass slowly, and it appears to fly by. The key is to learn *"to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12). It's not the amount of time, but what you do with the time you have that counts.

3. The End is Coming — No one lives forever on this earth. Those throwing Methuselah's 969th birthday party might have thought so, but even his life came to an

end on this earth. As the years pass by, you become painfully aware that there are more birthdays behind you than in front of you. In fact, no one is guaranteed to see another birthday, no matter the age. Each one marks the blessing of living another year, but our days may be more numbered than we realize. Let each birthday, and each day, remind us to always be prepared for our end here and eternity to come. So **happy birthday** to you on your special day, whenever that is —enjoy it and remember these important lessons of life. —By Marc Gibson
