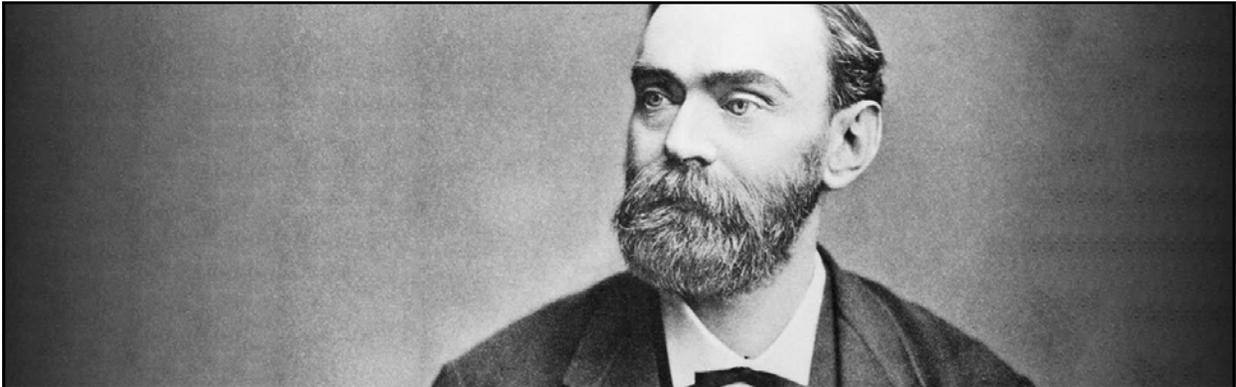




Living life backwards from here  
Part 2: "Saving time"

"Decide now what you want written on your tombstone, then live your life backward from there. ... If, at the end of your life, you want to say 'I did,' instead of 'I wish,' alter your course today."

Larry Moyer, *31 Days To Contagious Living*



“Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who died yesterday, April 12, 1888, devised a way for more people to be killed in a war than ever before, and he died a very rich man.”

“Every man ought to have the chance to correct his epitaph in midstream and write a new one.” Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel

So, if you knew you only had one year left to live, how would your life change?



“Life is a little gleam of time between two eternities.” Thomas Carlyle

Ps 39:4 “Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.

Ps 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

1. My life is short
2. My strength is small
3. My heart is sinful

“Oh, how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me feel when I think I have trifled away and misemployed it or neglected to fill up each part of it with duty to the utmost of my ability and capacity. Oh, that I might not loiter on my heavenly journey!”  
-David Brainerd

Eph 5:16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

Every day brings 24 hrs – 1440 min, 86,000 sec

I have only just a minute, only 60 seconds in it;  
Forced upon me; can't refuse it;  
Didn't seek it, didn't chose it.  
But it's up to me just how I use it.  
I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it.  
Just a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it.

## 1. Two words

- Redeem

*Exagarazo*: a marketplace term – to purchase out of

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us

- Time

*Karios*: the right time – a pre-determined time or an opportune time.

Opportunity (Latin: ob portu): toward the port

Suggests a ship taking advantage the window of time when the wind and tide are such as to allow safe passage into the harbor.



“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities (ob portu’s) brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” Chuck Swindoll

“So pervasive is the evil of these days that our opportunities to do good will slip away and be consumed by darkness unless we act. It’s as if we have to rescue and redeem these opportunities from the clutches of an evil world. Because the days are evil, the opportunities we have to do good and to bring glory to God are already on auto-pilot on a course to be swallowed up by busyness and our worldly mindsets. Because the days are evil, if we just ‘go with the flow’ of our culture, we will lead wasted lives.”

## 2. Two days

Two days that can destroy your life:  
yesterday & tomorrow

## 3. Two concepts

- *Coram Deo* – before the face of God
- *Carpe diem* – from the Roman poet Horace, “Pluck the day,” usually translated “Seize the day”



“On the night when the courthouse bell of Chicago was sounding an alarm of fire, my sermon was upon ‘What Shall I Do with Jesus?’ I said to the audience, ‘I want you to decide this question by next Sunday.’ What a mistake! That night I saw the glare of flames, and knew that Chicago was doomed. I never saw that audience again.”  
-DL Moody

Rom 13:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.