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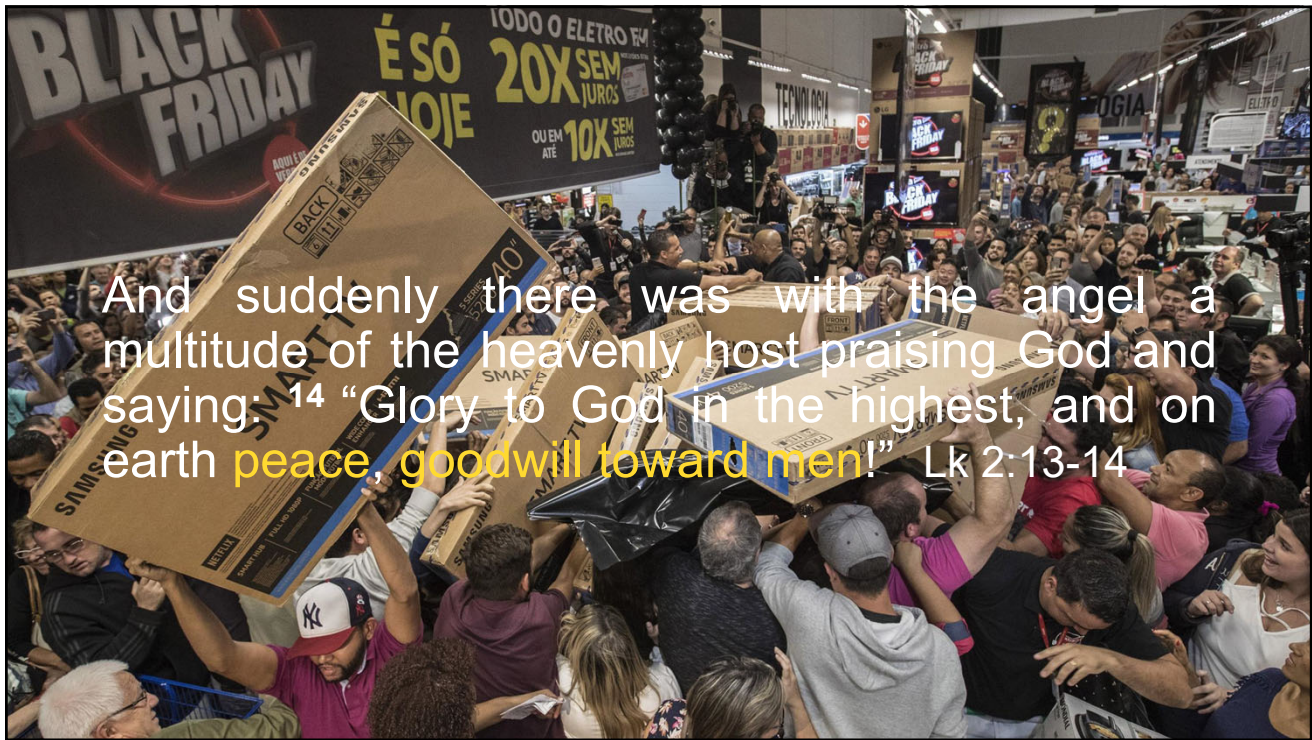
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Lk 2:13-14

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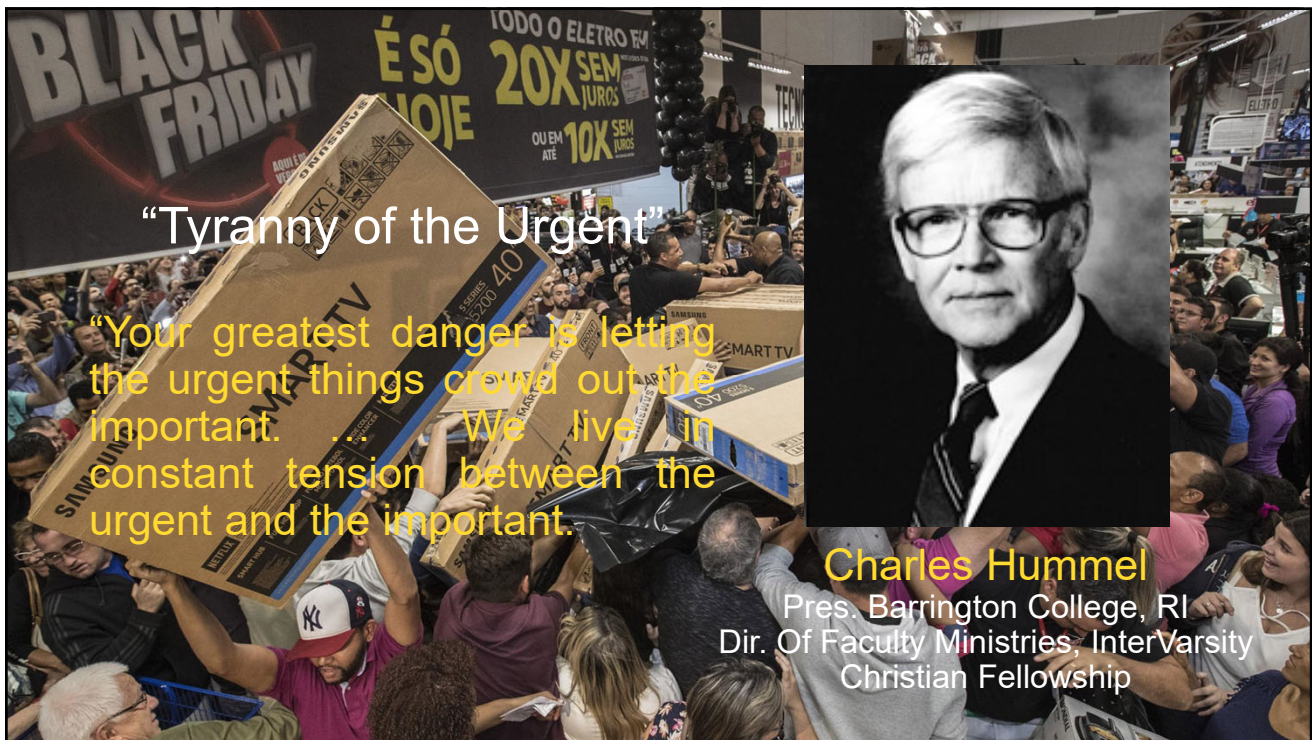
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And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace, goodwill toward men!**” Lk 2:13-14

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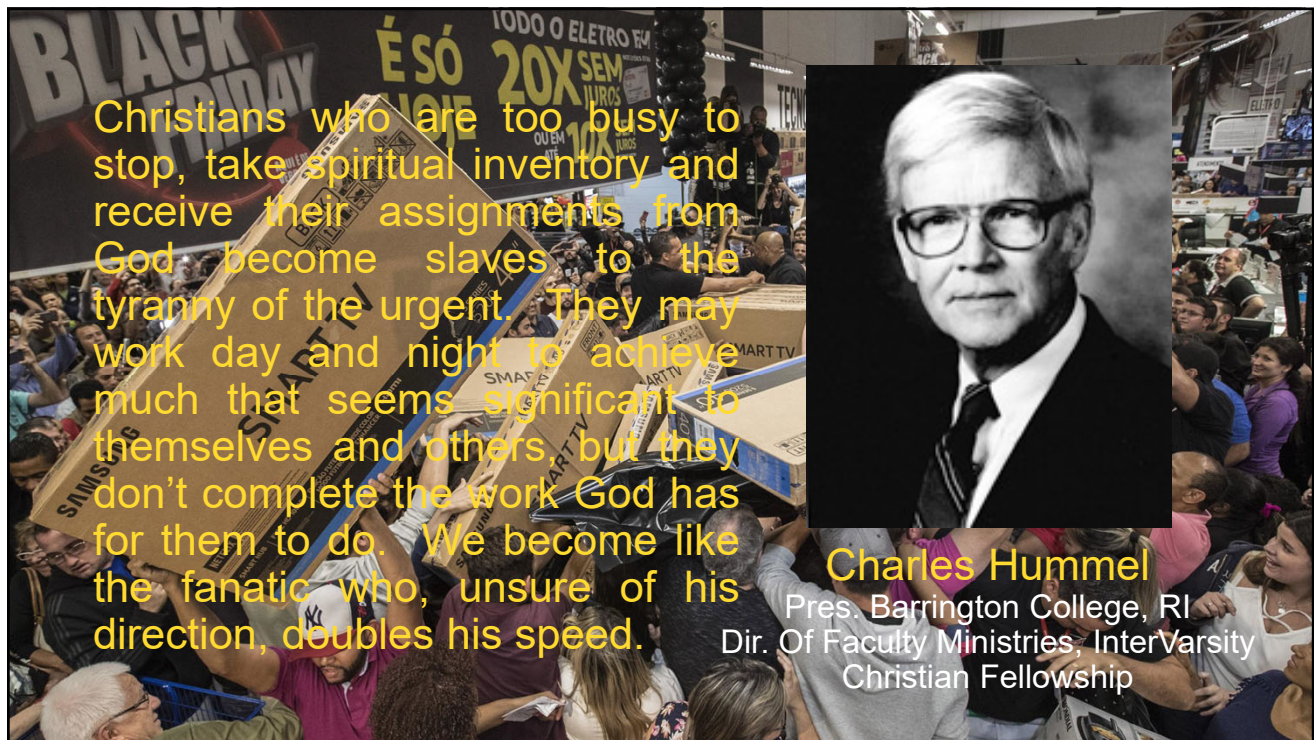
“Tyranny of the Urgent”

“Your greatest danger is letting the urgent things crowd out the important. ... We live in constant tension between the urgent and the important.”

Charles Hummel

Pres. Barrington College, RI
Dir. Of Faculty Ministries, InterVarsity
Christian Fellowship

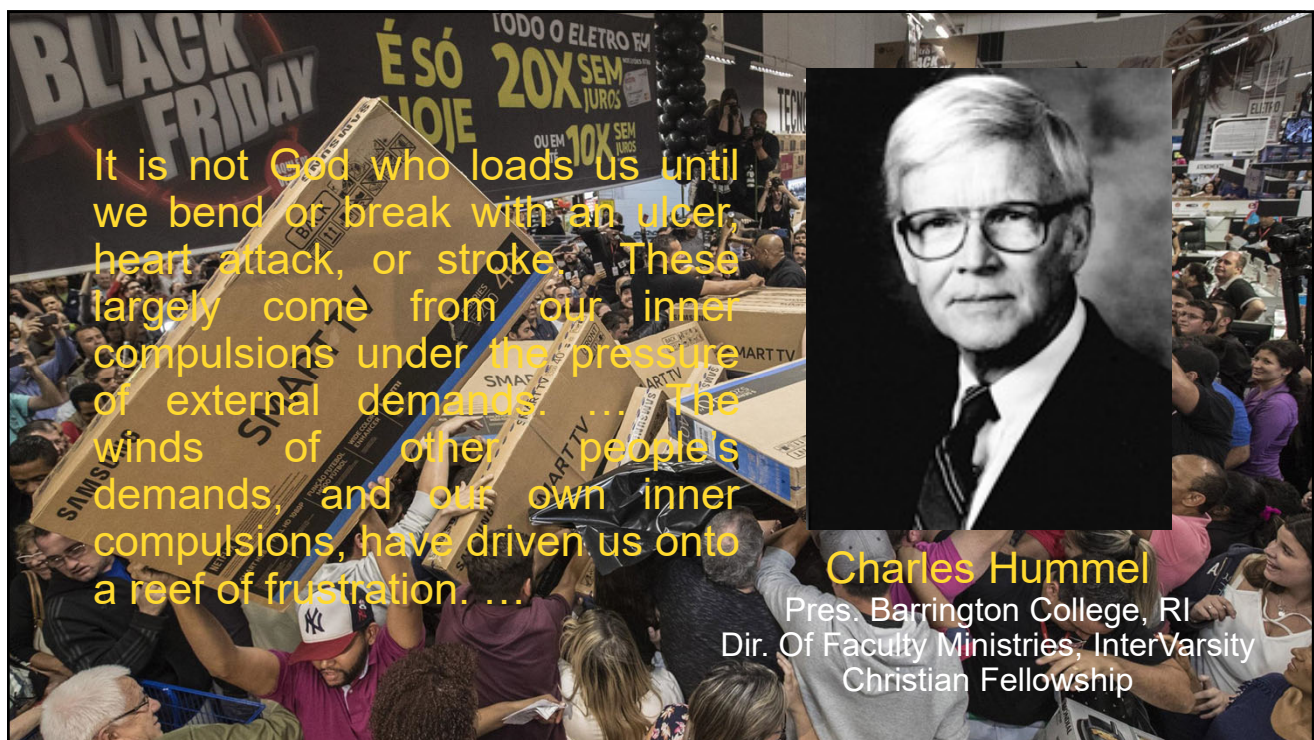
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Christians who are too busy to stop, take spiritual inventory and receive their assignments from God, become slaves to the tyranny of the urgent. They may work day and night to achieve much that seems significant to themselves and others, but they don't complete the work God has for them to do. We become like the fanatic who, unsure of his direction, doubles his speed.

Charles Hummel
Pres. Barrington College, RI
Dir. Of Faculty Ministries, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

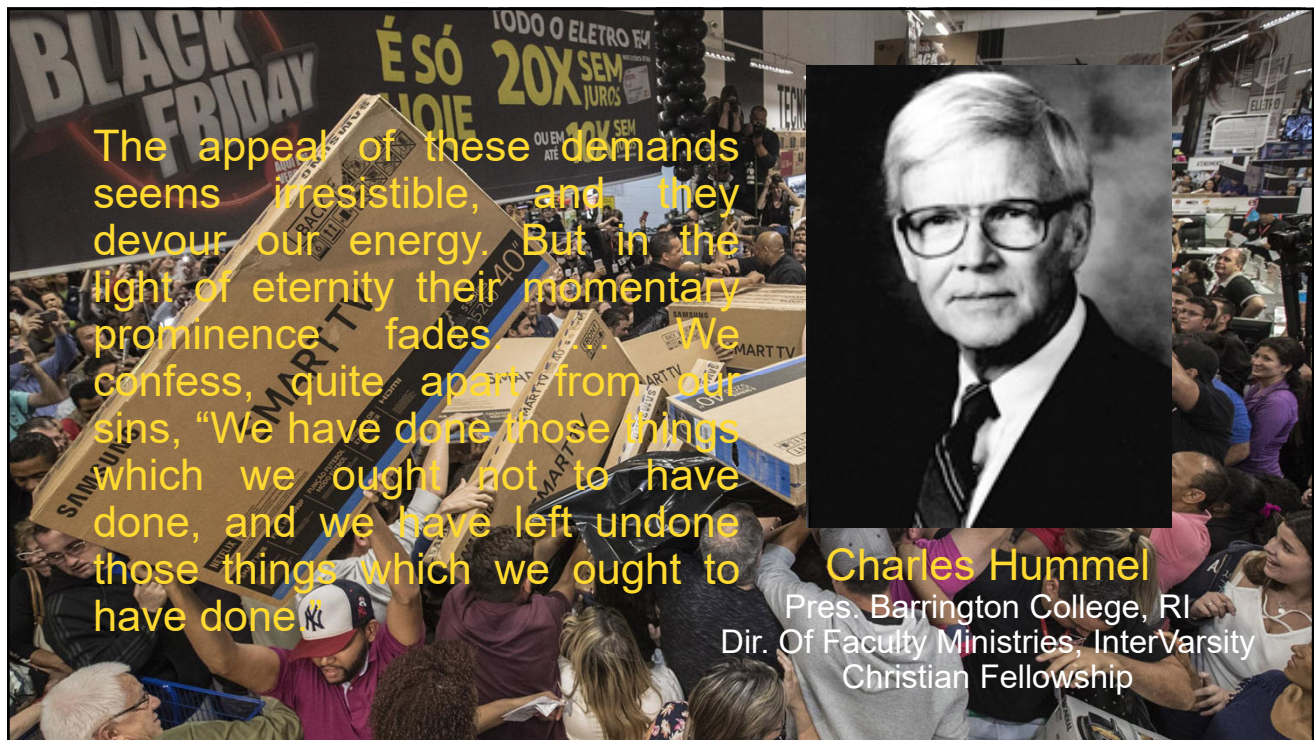
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It is not God who loads us until we bend or break with an ulcer, heart attack, or stroke. These largely come from our inner compulsions under the pressure of external demands. ... The winds of other people's demands, and our own inner compulsions, have driven us onto a reef of frustration. ...

Charles Hummel
Pres. Barrington College, RI
Dir. Of Faculty Ministries, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

10



11

Parkinson's Law: "Work expands to fill all the available time. Nor will the passage of time necessarily help us catch up." (1957)

Cyril Parkinson, British naval historian, author

12

Jesus is the key

Mt 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. **These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**

13

Jn 6:38, 8:28-29 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ... I do nothing of Myself; ... for I always do those things that please Him.

- **His three-year ministry seems all too short.**
- **For every person He healed, 1000s more remained sick and hurting.**
- **For every person He helped, 1000s more could have been ministered to.**
- **His life was never lived in a fevered rush.**

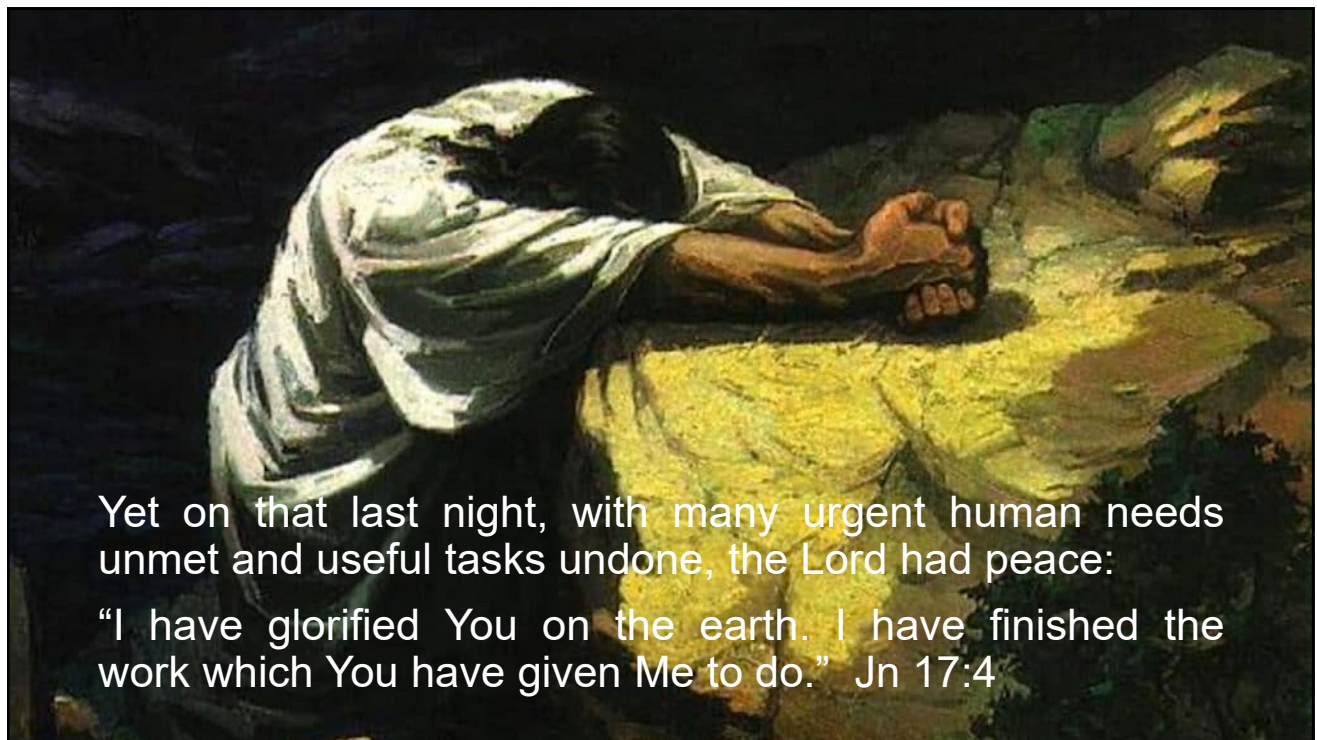
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Mk 1:35-37 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. ³⁷ When they found Him, they said to Him, “**Everyone is looking for You.**”

38 But He said to them, “**Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.**”

Jn 11:1-44

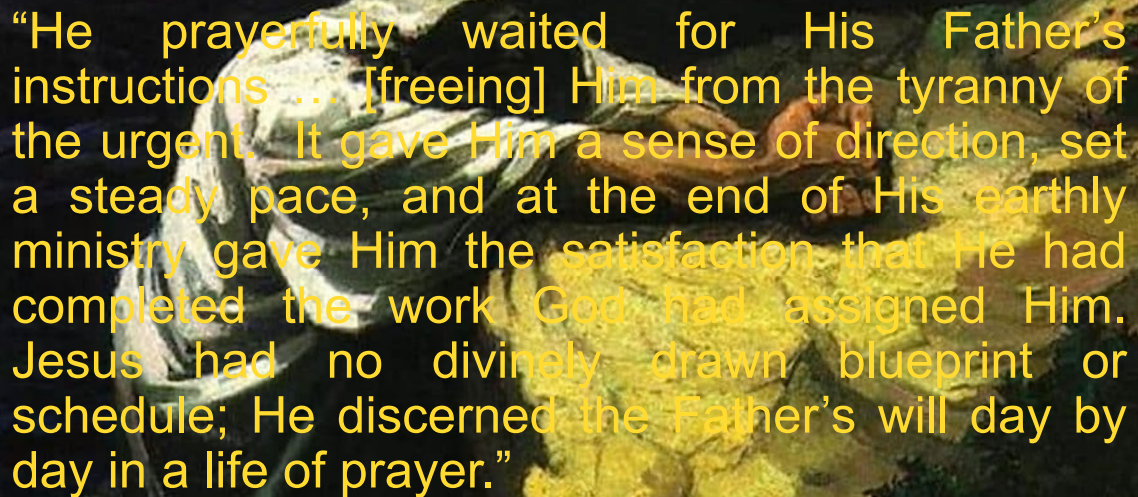
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Yet on that last night, with many urgent human needs unmet and useful tasks undone, the Lord had peace:

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” Jn 17:4

16



“He prayerfully waited for His Father’s instructions ... [freeing] Him from the tyranny of the urgent. It gave Him a sense of direction, set a steady pace, and at the end of His earthly ministry gave Him the satisfaction that He had completed the work God had assigned Him. Jesus had no divinely drawn blueprint or schedule; He discerned the Father’s will day by day in a life of prayer.”

Charles Hummel, *Tyranny of the Urgent*

17



In his *The Discipline and Culture of the Spiritual Life*, Methodist Alfred Whitham wrote, “Here in this Man is adequate purpose ... inward rest, that gives an air of leisure to His crowded life. . . . making a short life of about thirty years a ‘finished’ life.”

18

1. Spending our time
is much like spending
our money



19

1 Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required
in stewards that one be found
faithful.

1 Pet 4:10 ... minister it to one
another, as good stewards
of the manifold grace of God.



20

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

I have only just a minute, only 60 seconds in it;
Forced upon me; I can't refuse it;
I didn't seek it, I didn't choose 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.

21

There are two ways to use our time:

- We can go through the day responding mainly to the inner compulsions and outward pressures of the moment
- We can make a plan that sets priorities and then prayerfully make decisions in advance

22

2. We must set God's priorities so urgencies will not dictate our time

Mk 12:30-31 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the **first** commandment. ³¹ And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Heb 5:12 ... the **first** principles of the oracles of God;

23

Js 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is **first** pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Mt 6:33 But seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2 Cor 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they **first** gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

24

Our problem goes much deeper than not having enough time for what God wants; it is a problem of wrong priorities.

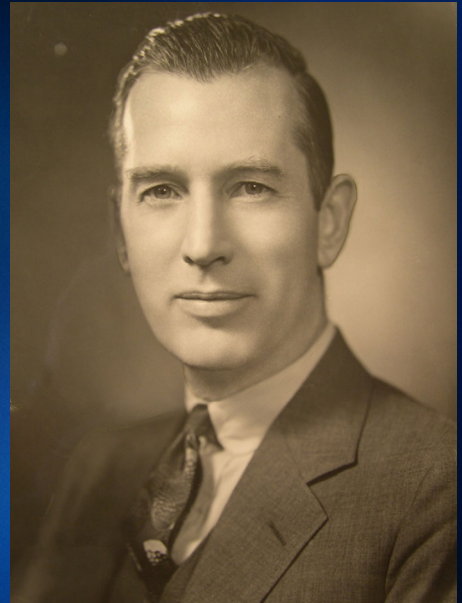
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3. We must budget our time according to our priorities

26

Crawford Hallock Greenewalt,
former Pres of DuPont:

“One minute spent in
planning saves three or four
minutes in execution.”



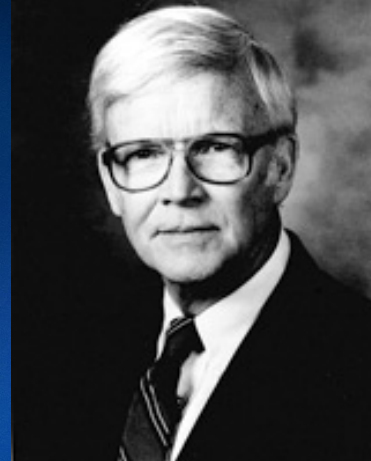
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4. We must have the commitment to follow through

- Beware the tyranny of the telephone
- Beware the tyranny of the TV & computer
- Beware the tyranny of hobbies
- Beware the tyranny of others' expectations

28

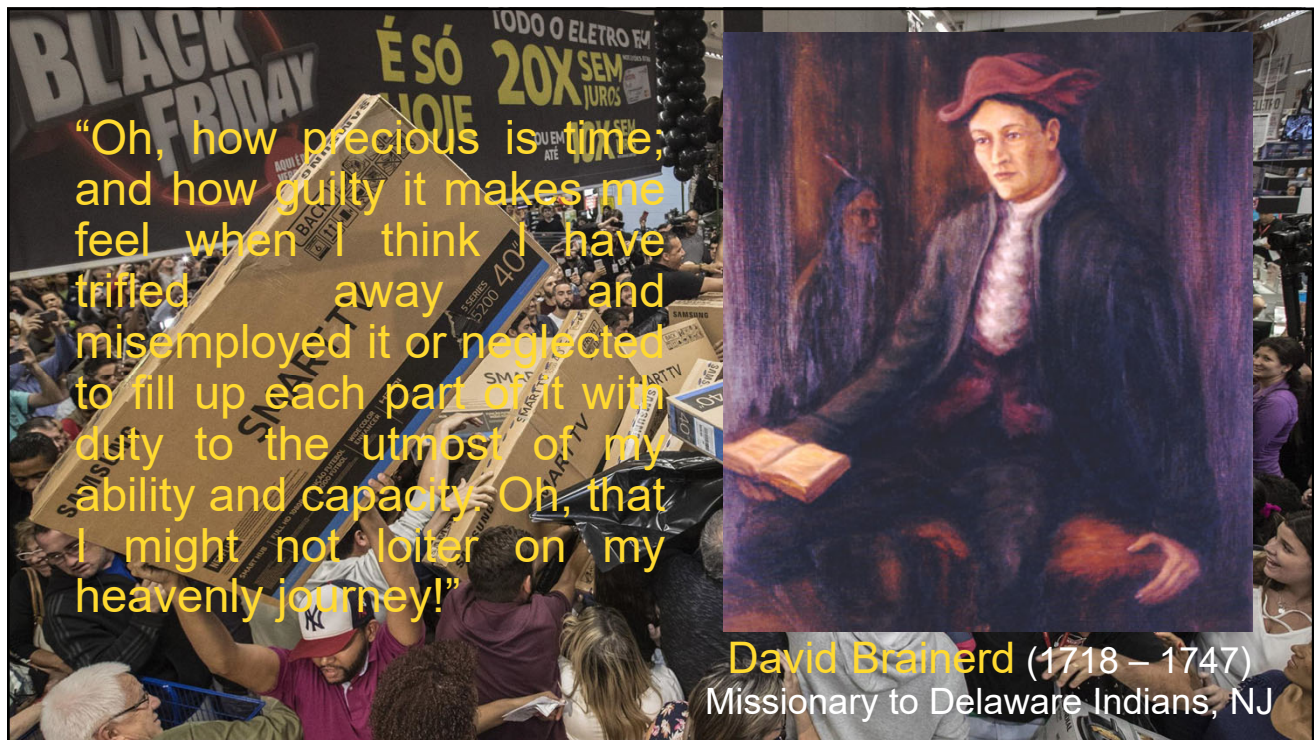
“I have come to realize that I
am the indispensable person
only until the moment I say
no.” Charles Hummel



29



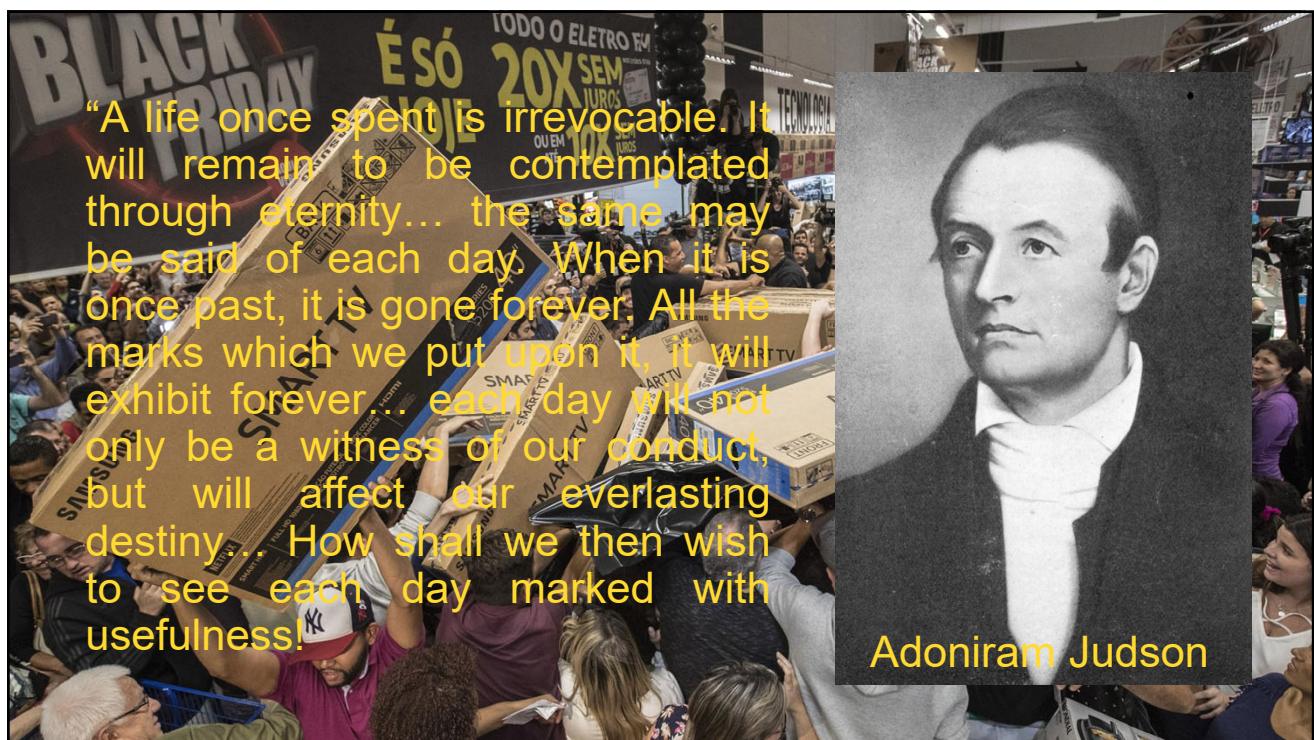
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“Oh, how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me feel when I think I have trifled away and misemployed it or neglected to fill up each part of it with duty to the utmost of my ability and capacity. Oh, that I might not loiter on my heavenly journey!”

David Brainerd (1718 – 1747)
Missionary to Delaware Indians, NJ

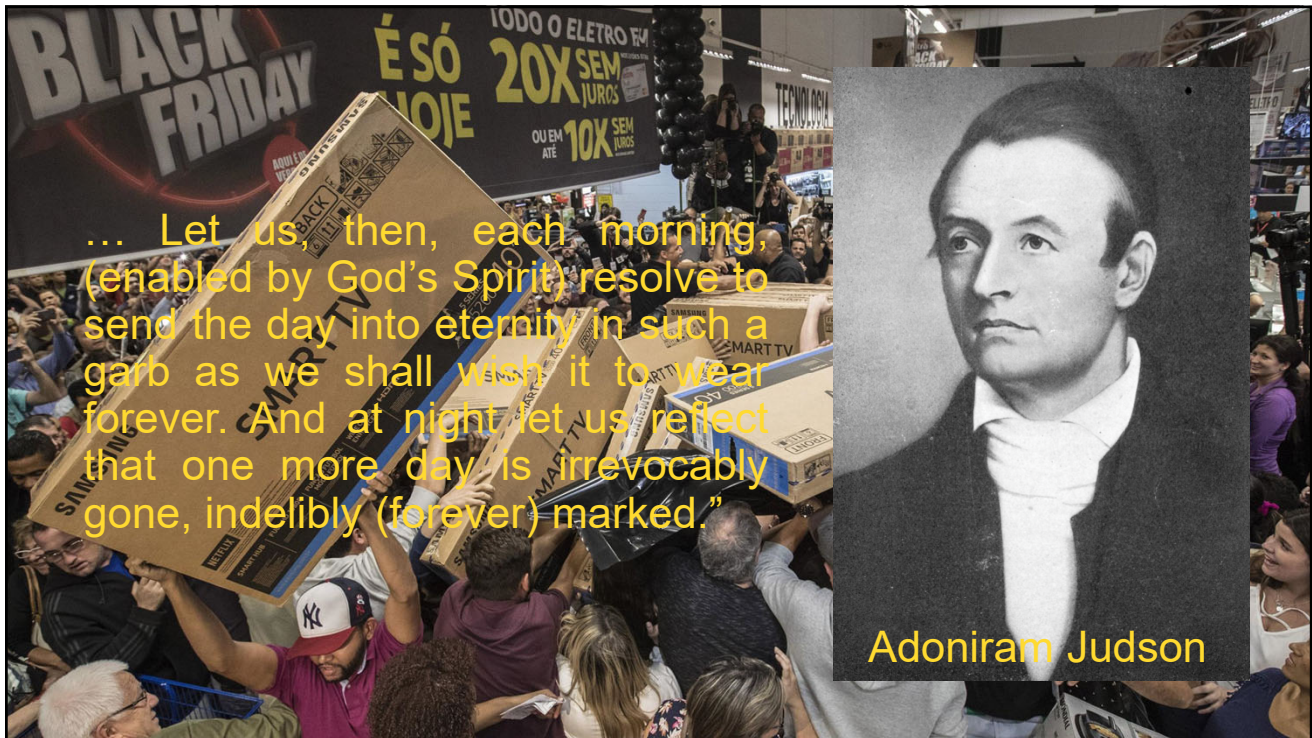
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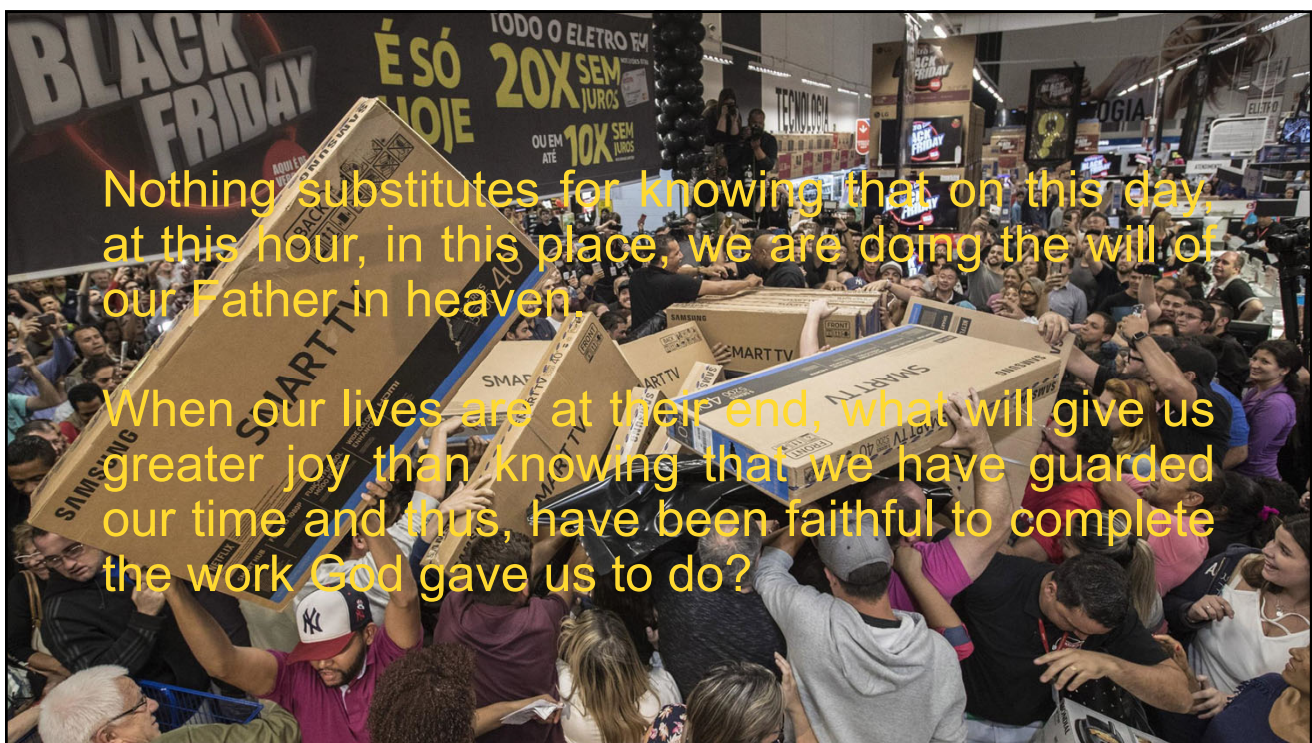
“A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity... the same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it, it will exhibit forever... each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny... How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness!”

Adoniram Judson

32



33



34

