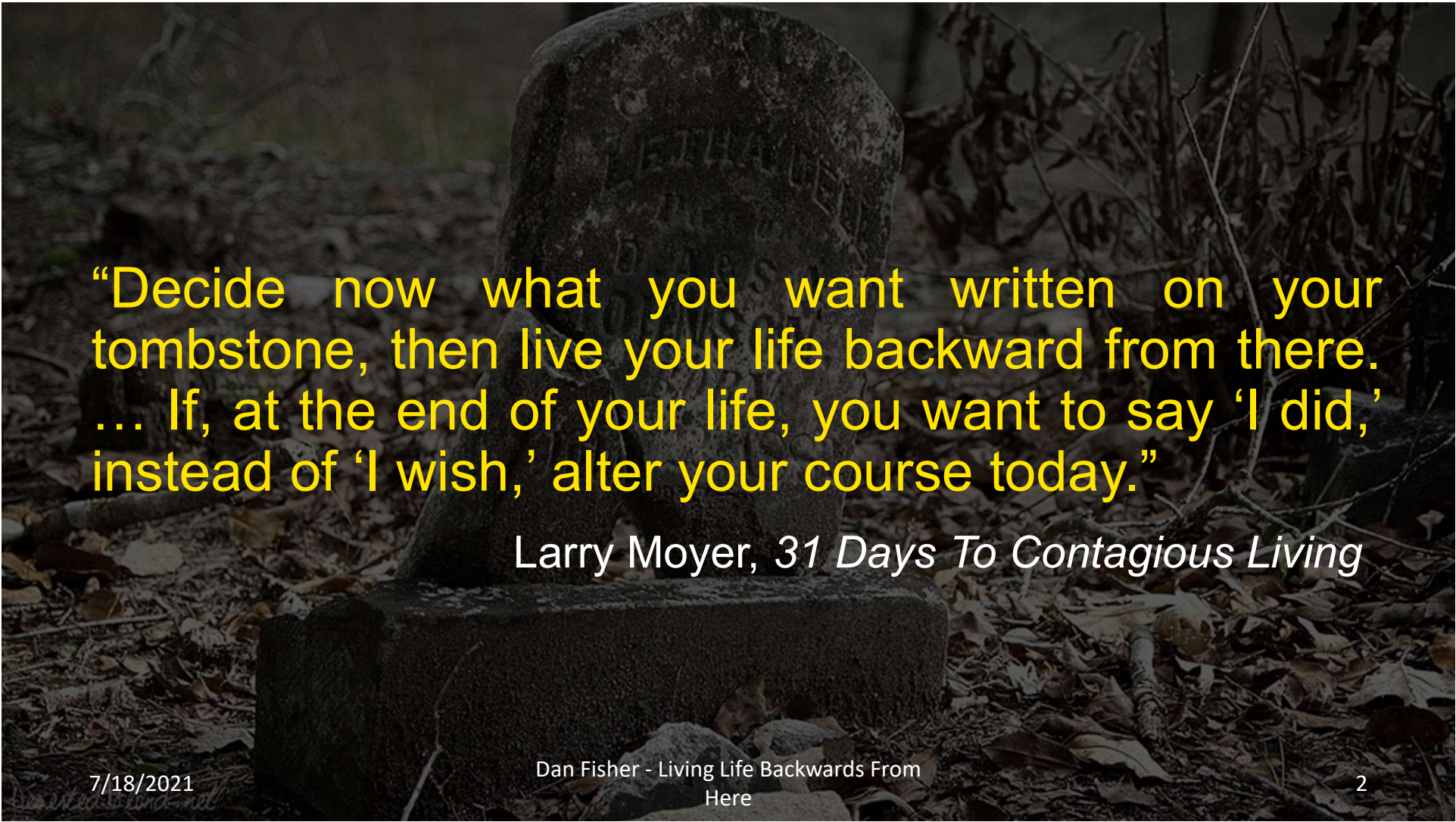


# Living life backwards from here

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“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*

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"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."

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Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel

"Every man ought  
to have the  
chance to correct  
his epitaph in  
midstream and  
write a new one."

Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel

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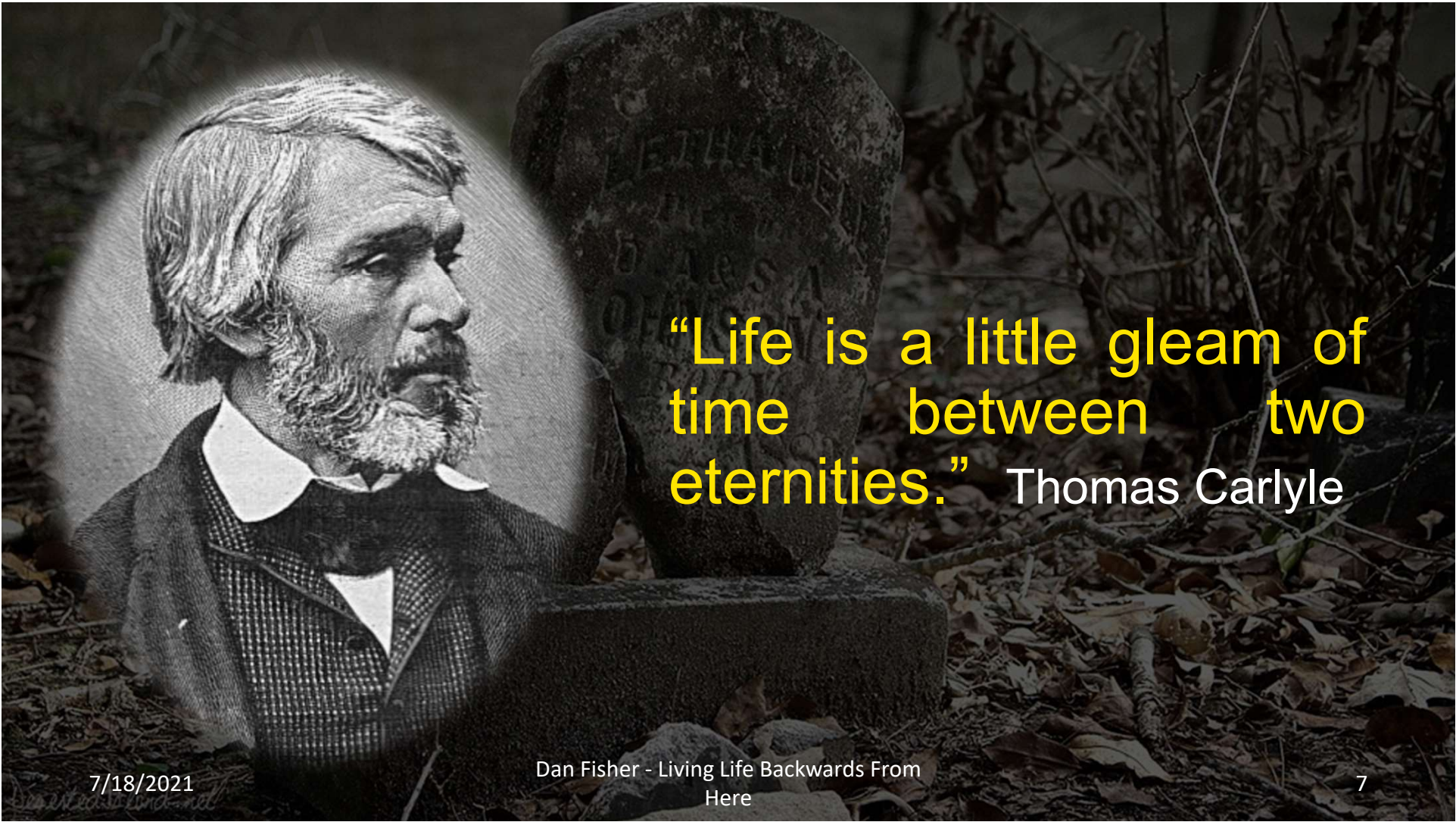
So, if you knew you only had one year left to live, how would your life change?

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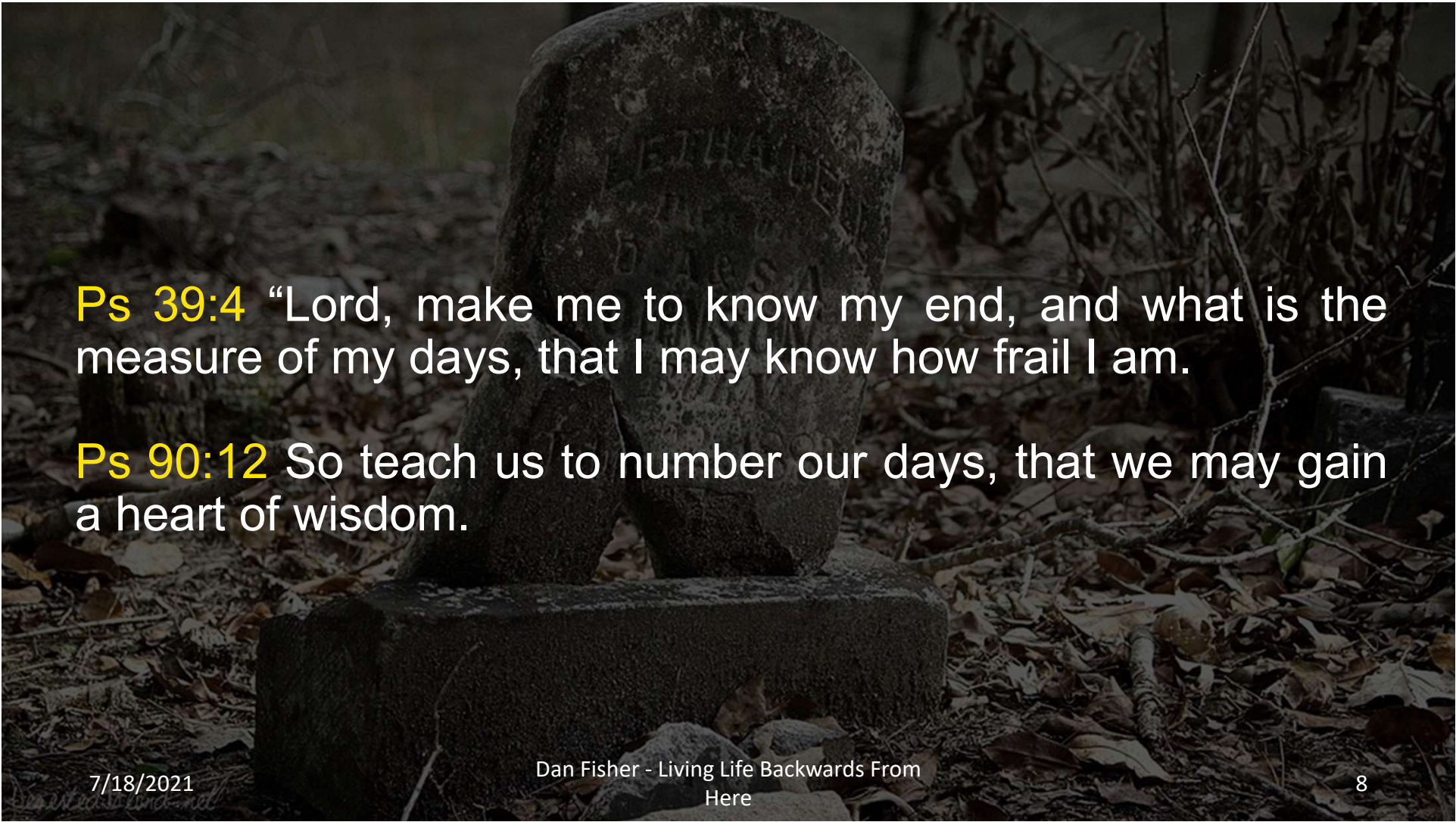
**“Life is a little gleam of  
time between two  
eternities.”** Thomas Carlyle

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**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.



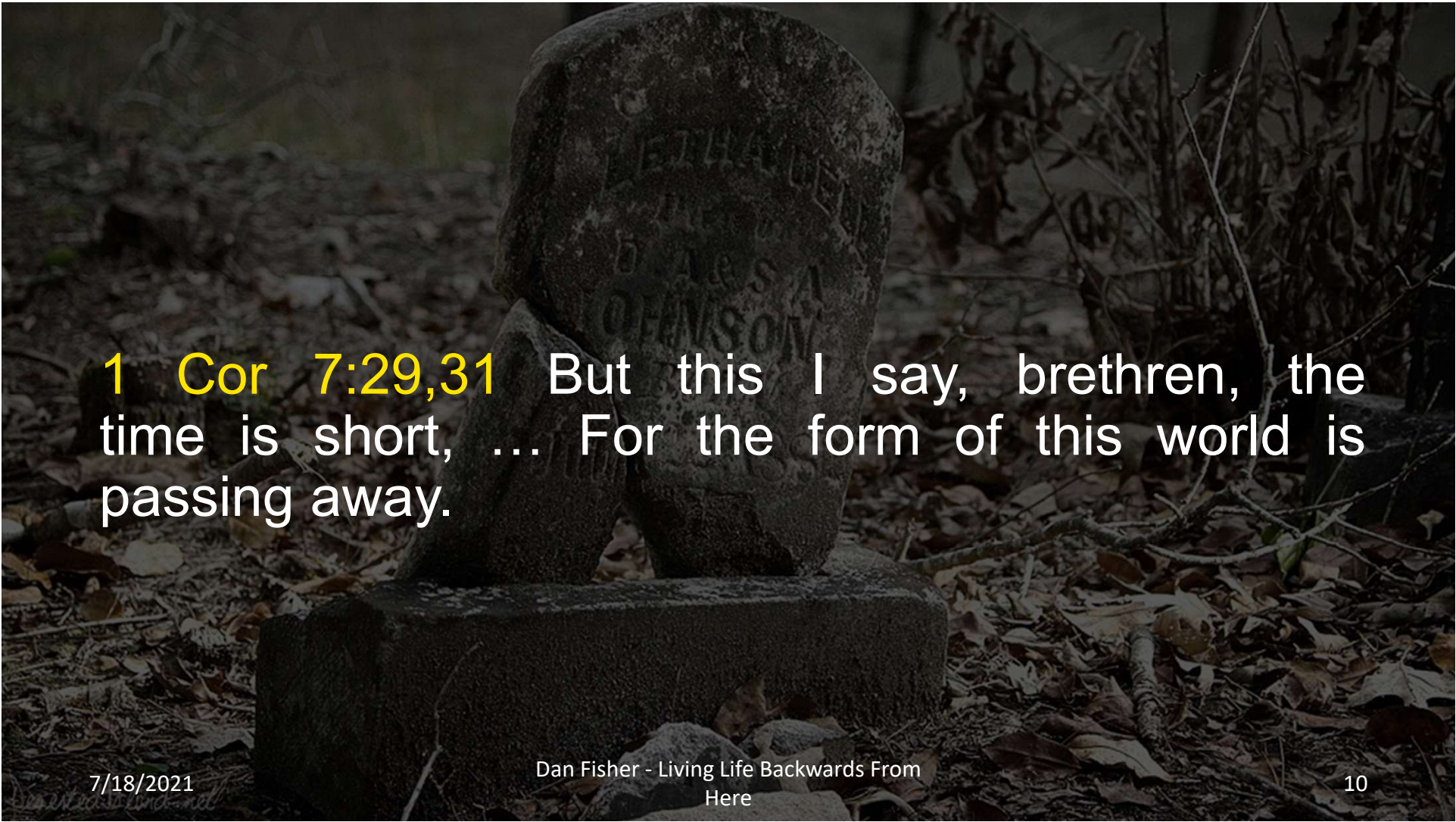
# 1. My life is short

**Job 14:1-2** “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. <sup>2</sup> He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue.

**Js 4:14** For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

**Is 64:6** ... we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.





1 Cor 7:29,31 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, ... For the form of this world is passing away.

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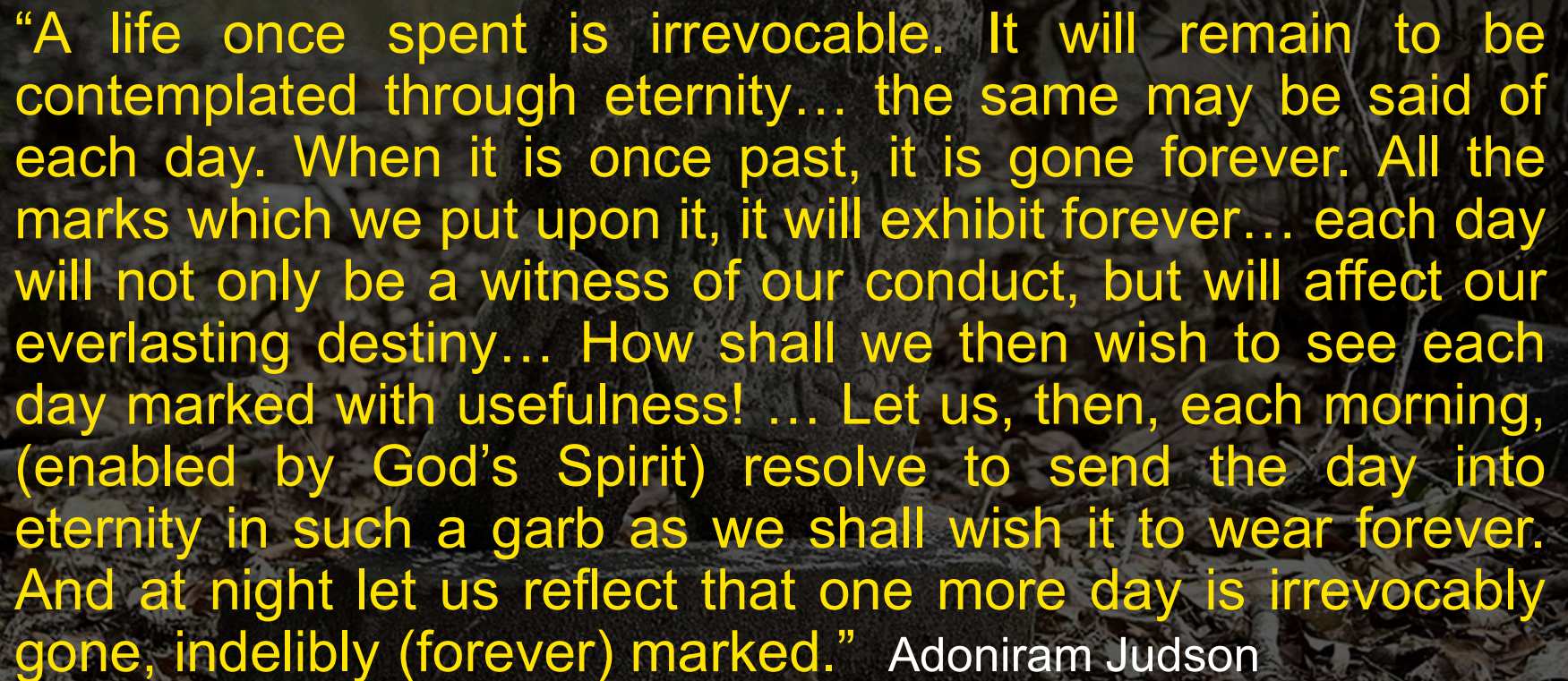




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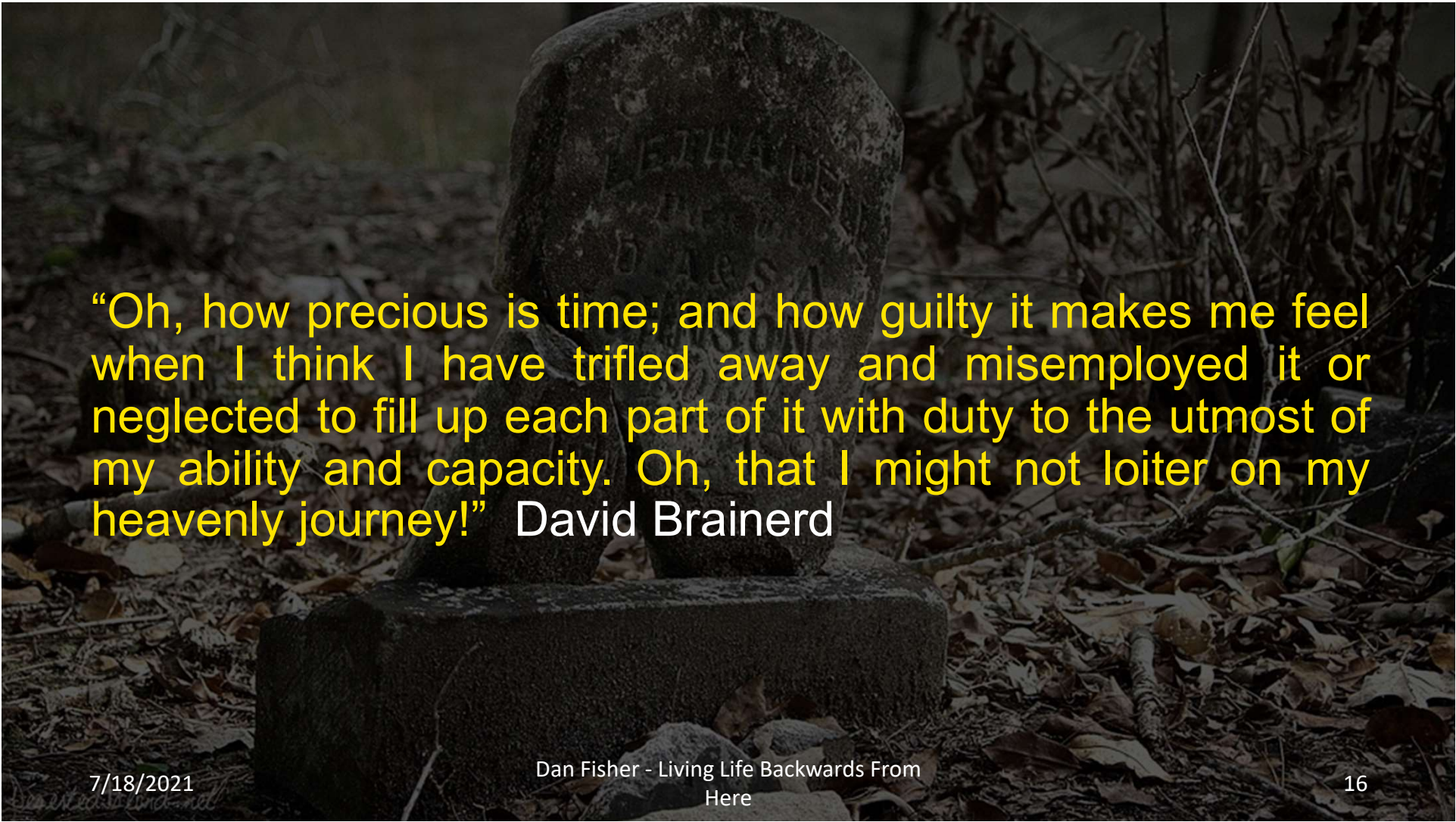
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“A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity... the same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it, it will exhibit forever... each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny... How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness! ... Let us, then, each morning, (enabled by God’s Spirit) resolve to send the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever. And at night let us reflect that one more day is irrevocably gone, indelibly (forever) marked.” Adoniram Judson





“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

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## 2. My strength is small

**Ps 39:4** “that I may know how frail I am”

**Ps 119:141** I am small and despised, yet I do not forget  
Your precepts.





Our problem is that too often we live by life's demands, instead of by God's priorities.

Charles Hummel, *Tyranny of the Urgent*: “the greatest danger is letting the urgent things crowd out the important.”





Charles Hummel, *Tyranny of the Urgent*:

“The greatest danger is letting the urgent things crowd out the important. The need itself is not the call. ... We realize our dilemma goes deeper than shortage of time; it is basically a problem of priorities. We confess, we have left undone those things that ought to have been done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. ...”

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The important task rarely must be done today, or even this week ... But the urgent task calls for instant action ... The momentary appeal of these tasks seems irresistible and important, and they devour our energy. But in the light of time's perspective, their deceptive prominence fades; with a sense of loss we recall the vital tasks we pushed aside. We realize we've become slaves to the tyranny of the urgent."

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Remember that life is too short for us to do everything we want to do, but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.

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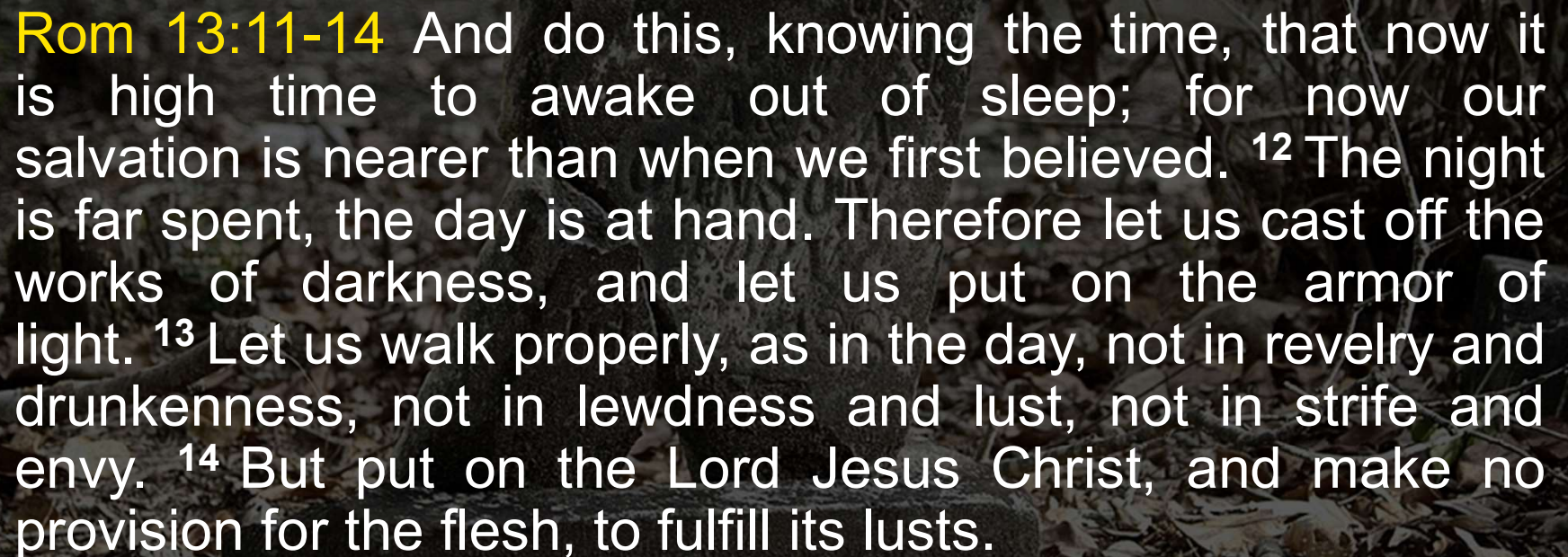


### 3. My heart is sinful

**Ps 90:12** ... that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

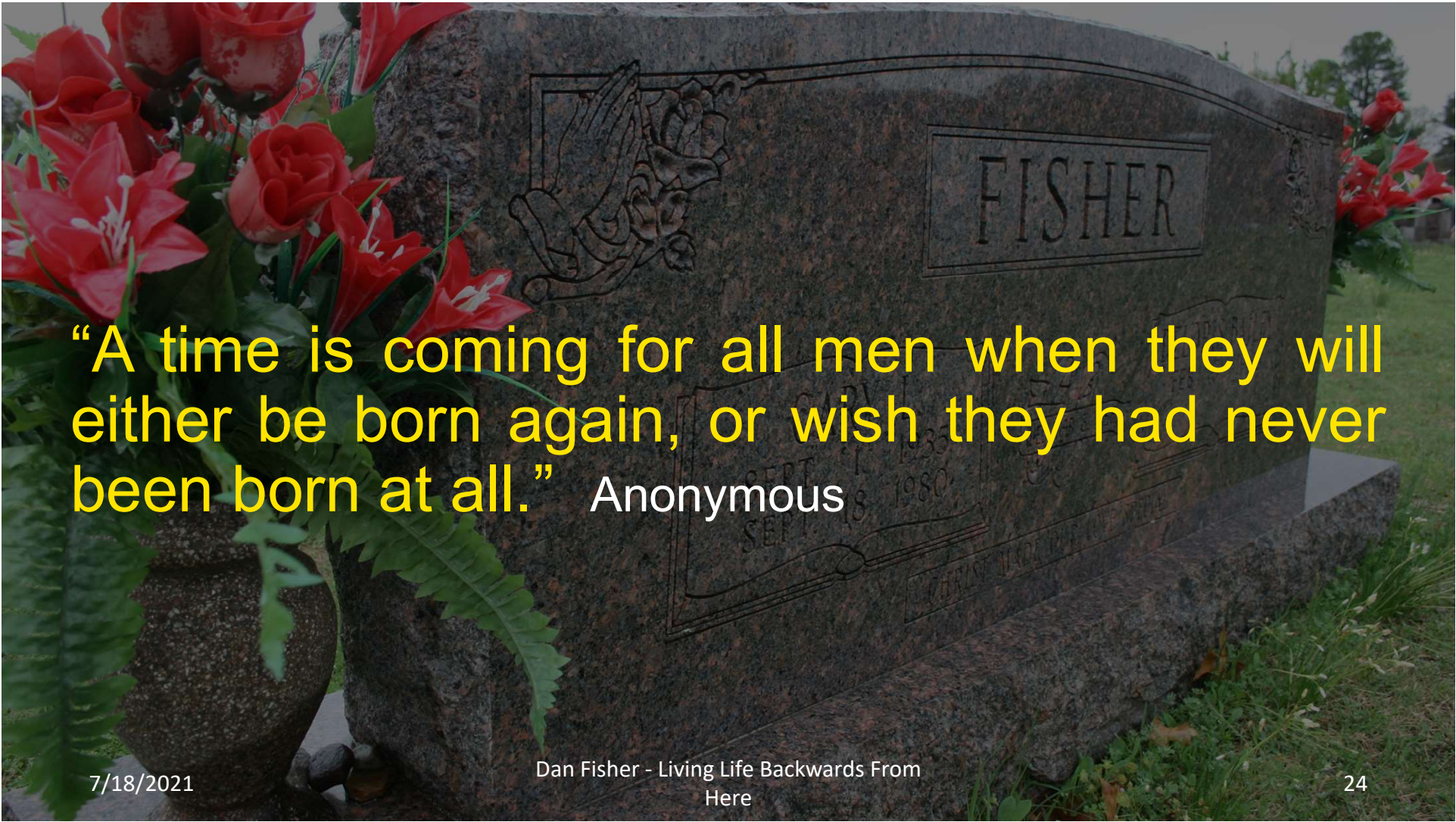
**Is 64:6** But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;





**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.





“A time is coming for all men when they will  
either be born again, or wish they had never  
been born at all.” Anonymous

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