



A PROCRASTINATOR'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SOME DAY	FIRST DAY	ONE DAY	ANY DAY	ANOTHER DAY	OFF DAY	NEXT DAY

PROCRASTINATION

"I'll do it **someday**."

"I'll do it the **first day** I have a chance."

"I'll get around to it **one day**."

"I'll do it **any day** now."

"I'll do it **another day**."

"I'll do it on my **off day**."

"I'll do it the **next day** I have the opportunity."

Work put off to one of these days will bring about a call for one more day:

"mayday"

*I passed by the field of the sluggard And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; Its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. **"A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest,"** Then your poverty will come as a robber And your want like an armed man.*

Proverbs 24:30-34

Punctuation

The use of standard marks and signs in writing and printing in order to clarify meaning.

While thinking about punctuation, it occurred to me that punctuation marks may be used to highlight Bible precepts.

. (period)

stop, don't continue

Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning.

1 Corinthians 15:34

, (comma)

pause and consider

“Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!”

Luke 12:24

! (exclamation mark)

emphasize what is important

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

? (question mark)

examine by questioning

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good, abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

“ (quote)

speak as the Bible speaks

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.

1 Peter 4:11

*** (asterisk)**

be aware of conditions and exceptions

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:10

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

Love One Another

The phrase "love one another" is found 12 times in the New Testament.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

John 13:34

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."

John 15:12

"This I command you, that you love one another."

John 15:17

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1 John 3:11

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 3:23

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:12

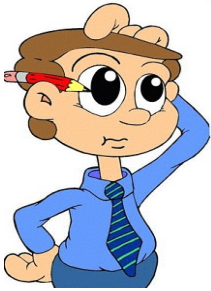
Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

2 John 1:5

Point made. Love one another!

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3



Ponder This

Exercises in Futility

Futility: The quality of having no useful result; uselessness.

Jumping to conclusions.

"But I thought . . ."

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### **Sidestepping responsibilities.**

*"Somebody (else) needs to . . ."*

~~~~~

Dodging the issues.

"I'm still studying the matter . . ."

~~~~~

### **Passing the buck.**

*"He made me do it . . ."*

~~~~~

Rejecting accountability.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

~~~~~

### **Pressing your luck.**

*"I'll just hope no one finds out."*

~~~~~

Ignoring Problems.

"Maybe it will go away."

~~~~~

### **Trying to Undue a Mistake.**

*"If only I could go back."*

~~~~~

Trying to make God disappear!

"The fool has said in his heart,

"There is no God."

Psalms 14:1

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**Be effective, fruitful, and useful by avoiding these futile exercises.**



# Musings of a Preacher

## **Straight to the Point**

While working for a daily newspaper, I found one thing editors did with the page format could also be applied to preparing my sermons. For instance, after placing the desired articles on a page, especially page 1, there would remain a small hole or two. These holes had to be filled with something.

One way to fill the empty space, was to take the first paragraph of a wire story (Associated Press, e.g.) and put a small heading on it. This method worked. Why? Because articles were written with all the pertinent information in the first paragraph. The remainder of the article spelled out the details.

### **LESSON LEARNED**

The lesson I learned was to "set the scene" at the beginning of a sermon. Doing so puts both the speaker and the listener "on the same page." The points made in a brief introduction become the outline for the body. The conclusion would restate what was contained in the introduction.

As a result the lessons were orderly and complete. No fluff (i.e., interesting but not pertinent information).

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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