

A man with glasses and a red polo shirt is seated at a dark podium, gesturing with his hands while speaking. A large white speech bubble containing the text 'table talk' is positioned to his right. The background is dark and out of focus.

table talk

9/20/26

"19 Days Hath September"

***Most of us memorized this in the early days of elementary school :
"Thirty days hath September, April, June and November.
All the rest have 31, except February, which has but 28."***

But did you know there was one September that only had 19 days?

September 1752 in England was a very unsettled month. People who went to sleep on September 2, then woke up on September 14! No it wasn't due to hangovers or aliens. There was no connection to Rip Van Winkle, either.

Here's what happened. For many years the nations of Europe had lived under the Julian Calendar, which was proposed in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar. Western Europe followed that calendar for more than 1,600 years. But in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ruled that all Catholic nations should follow the Gregorian calendar. I'll spare the details, but the Julian calendar didn't do well in many respects of time-keeping, so the move seemed to be a good one.

Until the protests and rage began.

Some opposed the move out of spite toward the Pope. Others just didn't want someone making such an arbitrary ruling concerning their personal lives. A protest motto was "Give us back our 11 days!" Others honestly believed they had somehow lost 11 days of their lives so they would die nearly two weeks earlier under the new system. Work stopped in many places, and fear escalated. Panic touched some communities.

Actually, the move was made because of the increase in international trading and business, so everyone had to "get on the same page." But some countries didn't change until as late as the 20th century. Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar only in 1918 and Greece in 1923. In fact, when Alaska was bought by the United States from Russia (1867), their

calendar jumped overnight from October 6 to October 18.

But here is my point. The priests and pastors did a good job of helping the people understand what was happening. Christians were directed to Psalm 90:12 and Psalm 39:4 which instruct us concerning the calendar: **“So teach us to number our days, so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”**

Christians were made aware that it's not the number of days we have as much as it is how we live those days. The New Testament reminds us to **“be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”**
Ephesians 5:15-17

The church was reminded that our days are in the hands of the Lord, and no king or institution can take our appointed days from us.

John the Baptist lived only about 30 years. Methuselah lived 969. But neither of them missed a single day that God appointed for them. I know we don't all have the same number of days, but we all can count on God to deliver to us the days He has appointed as we obey Him and serve His purposes.

You can either count the days, or make the days count. That, Loved Ones, is our decision.

I love you,
Pastor Stephen