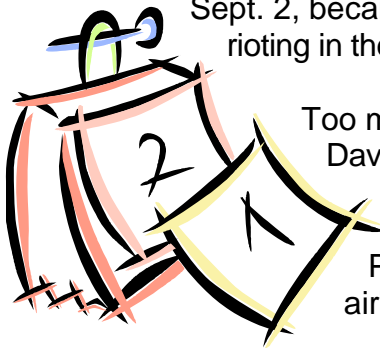


## The 11 Missing Days

The Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., was 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than the solar year. By 1582, the discrepancy had accumulated to the point that the vernal equinox came 10 days early, and church holidays did not fall in the appropriate seasons. Pope Gregory XIII dropped 10 days from the calendar and instituted the Gregorian calendar.

The new calendar was gradually implemented throughout Europe, but not adopted in Britain and the colonies until the British Calendar Act of 1751. In 1752, the month of September had only 19 days. The day after Wednesday, Sept. 2, became Thursday, Sept. 14. The change led to protests and rioting in the streets, with some people demanding their 11 days back.



Too many of us live like we have all the time in the world. King David asked God to remind him that his days were numbered and that his life was fleeting (Psalm 39:4). Realizing the brevity of life helps us to grow in wisdom (Psalm 90:12). Psalm 144:4 compares our life on earth to a “breath of air” or a “passing shadow.”

Like the people in 1752, we may wake up one day to discover it's later than we think. Knowing how brief our time on the earth is should motivate us to invest each day wisely. Hebrews 3:13 urges us to encourage one another to godliness daily. The psalmist cried, “If only you would listen to His voice today!” (Psalm 95:7).

There is no better use for every day of our lives than to listen to and obey God's will and to minister to others. Then we will be ready for the day when calendars become obsolete, and it will be “today” forever.

Many of the associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have not only discovered this principle, but they live by it every day.

*Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today”*  
(Hebrews 3:13).

– Beecher Hunter