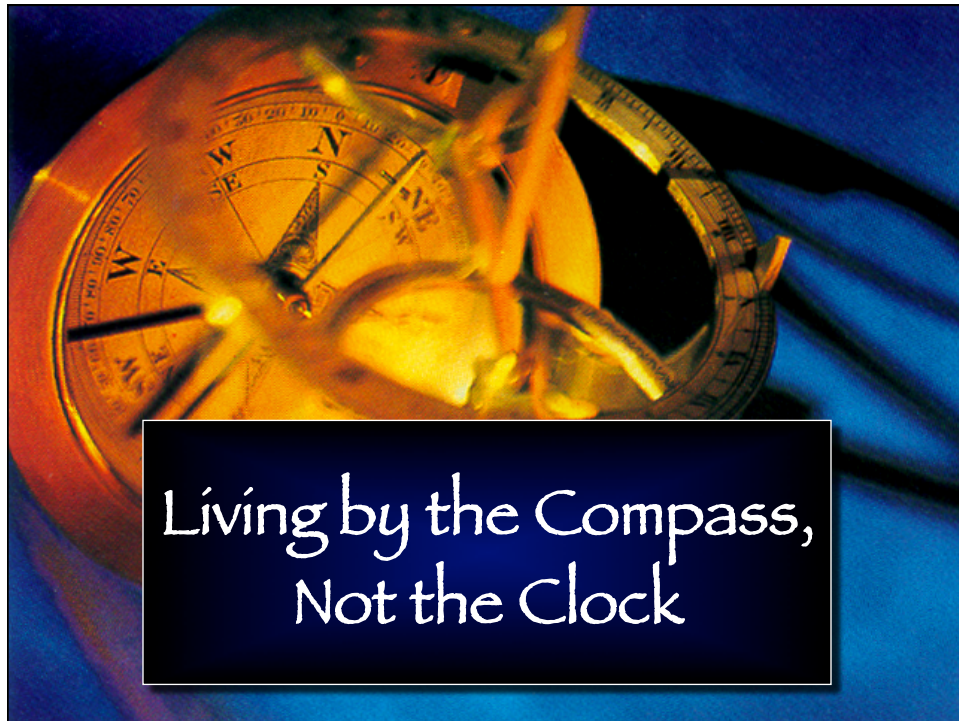


# Living by the Compass and not the Clock



“The wisdom of the prudent  
is to understand his way;  
but the folly of fools is deceit.”

Proverbs 14:8



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

What does *your* life look like?



## Your Life's Priorities

- 1. Spiritual life
- 2. Marriage
- 3. Family
- 4. Ministry/church
- 5. Work/career
- Rate the importance of each priority to you
  - 1 = less important
  - 5 = very important
- Rate your effectiveness
  - 1 = ineffective
  - 5 = extremely effective

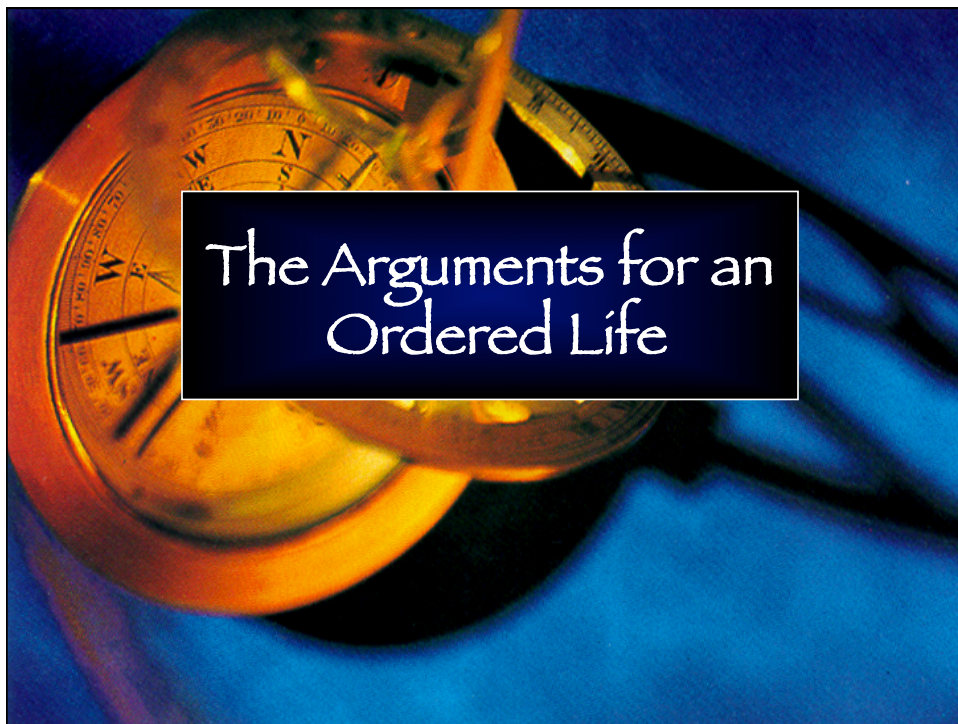
# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## An Overview

- The Argument for an Ordered Life.
- The Foundation for an Ordered Life.
- The Priorities of an Ordered Life.
- The Plan for an Ordered Life.



## The Arguments for an Ordered Life



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## The Biblical Arguments

- (A) Our God plans.
- Ps. 33:11; Eph. 1:11
- (B) Scripture calls for human planning, while acknowledging God's sovereignty
- Proverbs 6:18; 15:22, 26; 16:1, 3, 9; 19:21; 20:5, 18; 21:5 ; 24:8



## The Biblical Arguments

- (C) Paul establishes an ordered, purposeful life as one of the qualifications of an elder (1 Tim. 3:2)
- “respectable” (Grk. *kosmios*)





# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

"The ministry is no place  
for the man whose life is  
a continual confusion  
of unaccomplished plans,  
and unorganized activities."

Homer Kent in *The Pastoral Epistles*

## The Foundation of an Ordered Life

- An identifiable destination
- A defined set of goals and priorities

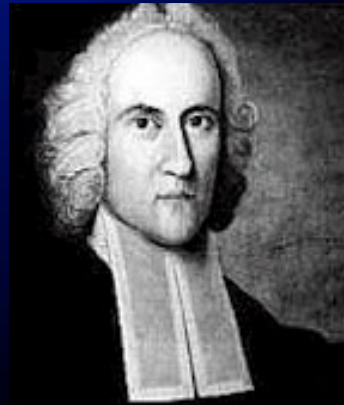


# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## The Case of Jonathan Edwards

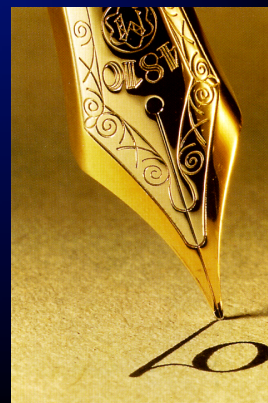
### Seventy Resolutions

- 1722
- Within 1 year of conversion
- 18 years old
- 21 at one sitting
- Balance over a year



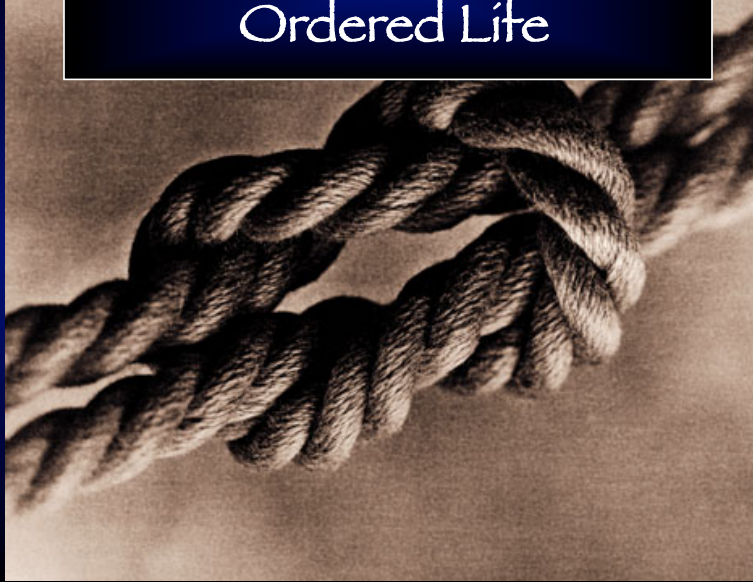
## A Resolutions Workshop

- Schedule an uninterrupted day away
- Create a simple list of what's important
- Prioritize that list
- Use the results to write a brief statement of your priorities and goals



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## The Priorities of an Ordered Life



## Adopting God's Priorities

- Love God with your entire being
- Love your neighbor as yourself



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## Putting God First

To love God is:

- To fear Him
- To be loyal to Him
- To serve Him
- To walk in His ways
- To keep His commandments
- To cling to Him



## Showing Love for God

- Being immersed in the Word of God
- Feeding & shepherding the flock
- Loving Others



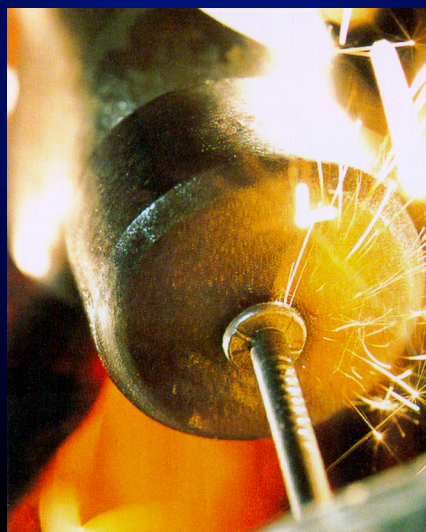


# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## Putting People Second

- Determine to do first what benefits people.
- Each week, determine what specific steps will most benefit each relationship.
- If necessary, add specific tasks or activities to your calendar.
- Determine that you will never think of people as an interruption.
- Leave open time each day to accommodate people.

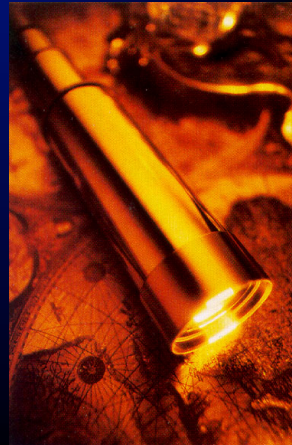
## The Tools of an Ordered Life



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## The Tools of an Ordered Life

- Regular evaluation & Planning
  - Weekly review of your resolutions
  - Annual Day Away
- A Daily/Weekly Planner



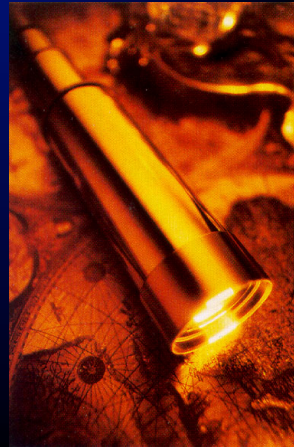
## The Process of Weekly Planning

- Reread your resolutions/mission statement.
- Schedule regular time for Scripture and prayer.
- Determine what specific steps would most benefit each relationship and plan them.
- Schedule other appointments
- Prioritize your tasks; assign to specific days

# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## The Tools of an Ordered Life

- Regular evaluation & Planning
- A Daily or Weekly Planner
- Objectives, Goals, & Tasks



## Definitions

- Objective – an overarching plan
- Goals – the components of the larger objective
- Tasks – specific steps necessary to accomplish a goal



# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## Objectives, Goals, & Tasks

- Objective -- improve knowledge of Scripture content
- One Goal -- re-view NT chapter content
- Tasks
  - Research flash-card program
  - Locate chapter content notes
  - Copy chapter content into program
  - Setup review system



## Objectives, Goals, & Tasks

- Objective – increase knowledge of Scripture
- One Goal – read through the Bible this year.
- Tasks
  - Research different options
  - Download a reading plan
  - Decide best time of day for reading
  - Add to schedule or task list



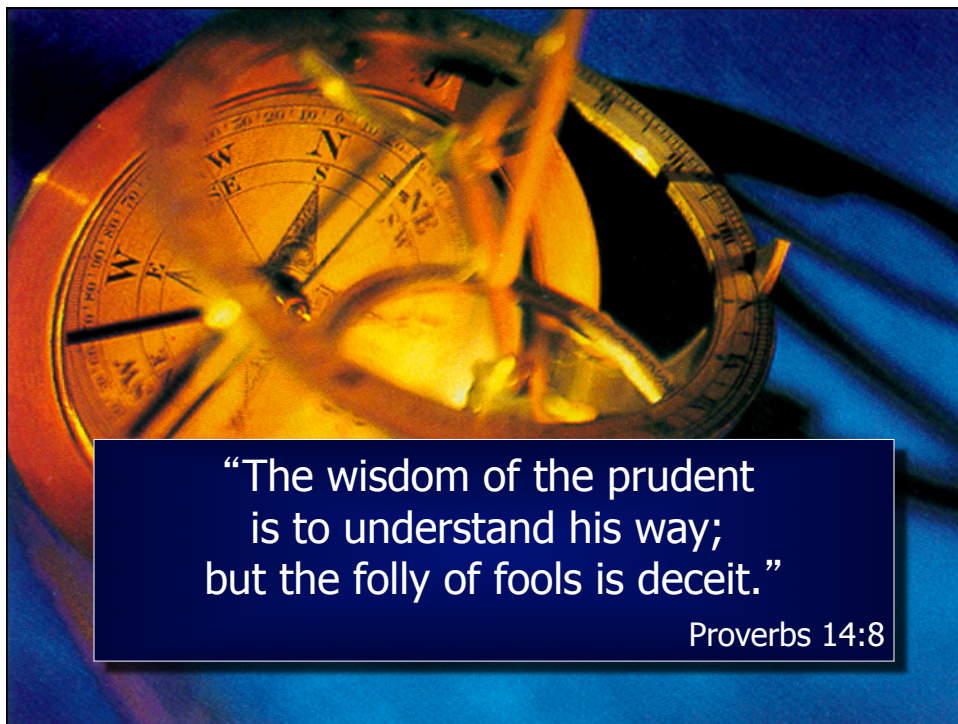


# Living by the Compass and not the Clock

## Engraved on a Sundial

*The shadow of my finger cast  
Divides the future from the past;  
Before it stands the unborn hour  
In darkness and beyond thy power;  
Behind its unreturning line  
The vanished hour, no longer thine;  
One hour alone is in thy hands,  
The now on which the shadow  
stands.*

Anonymous



**“The wisdom of the prudent  
is to understand his way;  
but the folly of fools is deceit.”**

**Proverbs 14:8**