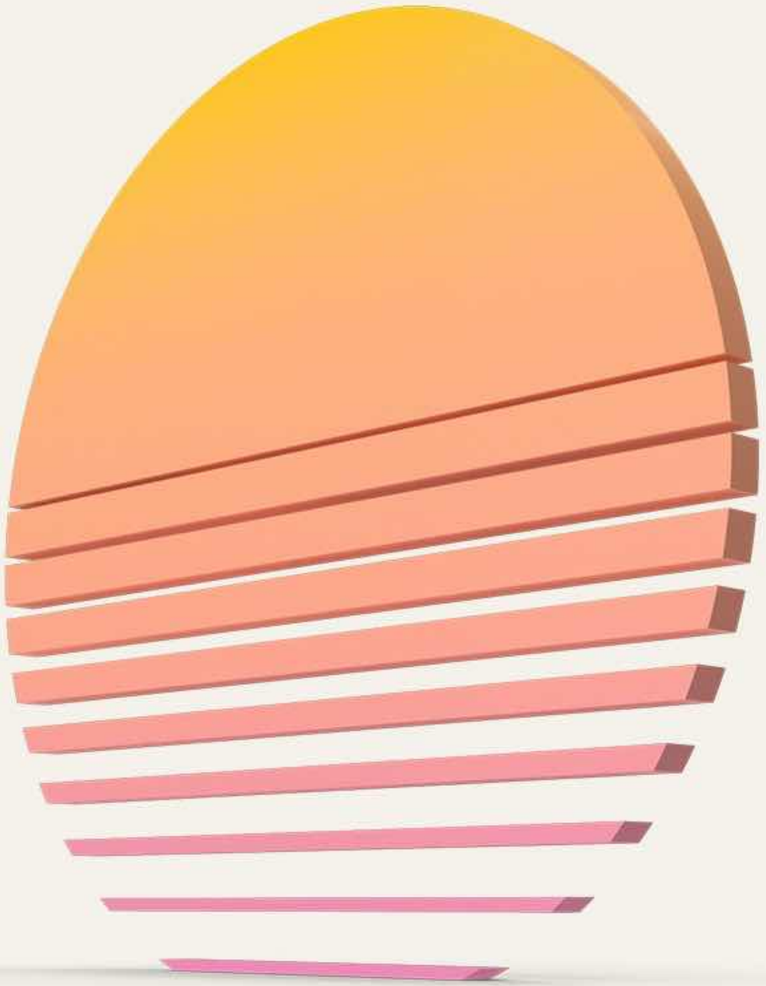
A TRIP

Around the Sun



What would you want those speaking at your funeral to say?

What you want people to say about you on your last day – start moving towards that today.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

Ephesians 5:15 NIV

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16 NIV

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:17 NIV

Today is our opportunity for better.

We have to make the most of it.

Better begins with who you want to be, not what you need to do.

Who we want to be provides us insight for what we need to do.

We are people who forgive.

Mark 11:25: But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

We are people who are blessings.

Matthew 5:44-45: But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven…

We are people who don't worry.

Matthew 6:31: "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

We are people who are grateful and generous.

Matthew 6:20: Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

We are good stewards.

Matthew 25:23: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

We are people who are free.

John 8:36: So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

We are people
who are full of life.

John 10:10: …I have come that you
may have life, and have it to the full.

We are people who honor and serve others.

Matthew 23:11: The greatest among you must be a servant.

We are people of joy and peace.

John 15:11: I have told you these things
so that you will be filled with my joy.
Yes, your joy will overflow!

We are people who say no to ourselves and yes to better.

Luke 9:23: Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

We are people who love our neighbors.

Matthew 22:38-39: This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

This trip around the sun can be the best yet – not because of what you do but because of who you become.

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

Hebrews 2:1 NIV

Look at how silent and unnoticed the pull of drift is. If it disturbed us, if it jarred or jolted us, if it drew attention to itself, this might be enough to put us on our guard. But, look! No such warning signal is ever given. No alarm bell is ever sounded. We drift away softly and silently, like a ship floating down the tide.

The life of drift is a pathetically easy course to follow. It takes no output of energy to float down a stream, or to be carried forward on the crest of a running tide. All that's necessary for a life of drift is to relax, do nothing, to cease struggling and to submit to the unhealthy influences within us and around us.

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:12 NIV

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

This is what the ancients were commended for.

Hebrews 11:1-2 NIV

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

The difference between who you were yesterday and who you want to be tomorrow is what you do today.

What would the person I want to be, do?