

JOHN PIPER

Dear friends!

About an hour ago I returned from my annual old-man-medical checkup. This means that the nurse tells you 3 words (window, kitchen, baby). She says, "You will say those back to me in a moment. But first draw a clock-face with all 12 numbers and put the big and little hands in it at 11:10." When you do that she says, "What were those three words?" Then she takes my blood pressure! Which has always been high, but never is at home, since they give me this test!

All that to say, at 74 I have some memory left, and I am deeply thankful to have such excellent health care. As far as I know I am healthy.

The reason that matters is not that it guarantees anything about the future but that it gives me a chance to glorify God for every heartbeat. James 4:15 says, "If the Lord wills we will live & do this or that." So every breath I take is owing to God's thinking & willing: I have a purpose for John Piper's next hours, therefore he lives." That's true for you too. Every heartbeat is a gift. And there is a divine purpose for every moment of life!

Which brings me now to the real subject of this letter: the privilege of living the heartbeats of 2020 in the service of Bethlehem College and Seminary.