

Words & Phrases in the essay: **sth = something; sb = somebody.

disability = sth that makes it difficult to use a part of your body or mind

tragedy = a sad, shocking event that involves death

(to have a) short temper: to easily become angry

degrees = educational degrees; e.g., MBA, PhD, etc.

(common) sense = wisdom or sensible judgment, often based on experience rather than studies

wellness = good health, including physical, mental, spiritual...

make a living = work in a job to earn money for daily life

make a life = make efforts to have a meaningful life

add years to life = increase the length of your life

add life to years = increase the quality of your life

a broken home = the result when parents in a family get a divorce

conquer outer space = send people or machines to the moon and places in the universe

conquer inner space = manage your soul or emotions very well

prejudice = strong negative feelings toward people of a different race, religion, political viewpoint, etc., esp. when such prejudice keeps you from listening to anyone with these differences

loved ones = relatives or especially close friends



Today is Sept 11, the anniversary of the tragic day in 2001 when 3000 people were killed in three US cities. **It has been called the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in US history.** Like COVID-19, the families affected by death and disability will suffer long after others move on with their lives. The following sentences are part of a 1995 essay written by a Seattle pastor, Dr. Bob Moorehead, that periodically goes around the internet in times of tragedy.

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers;

We have more conveniences, but less time; more degrees, but less sense.

We have more medicine, but less wellness. We read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, but not life to years.

These are the days of two incomes but more divorce; fancier houses but broken homes.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

Give time to Love, give time to speak, give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

Questions: *(are there any words you want your teacher to explain?)*

1. This essay says we have more degrees but less sense. What does that mean? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Pick a phrase from this essay, and explain what it means, and why you chose it.
3. This essay says: We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, but not life to years. Explain the underlined phrases. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. **How has your country's economic progress during the past 20 years affected most people's quality of life? If you don't mind, include 2-3 good results and 1 bad result of your country's economic progress.**
5. This essay mentions spiritual matters like prayer, pollution of the soul, and "inner space" (or peace). Some say "all that matters is what I can see and touch"; others think spiritual matters are important too. What do you think?
6. The essay lists many problems, and many good things. To you, which problem is the worst? Which 'good thing' has been a big blessing to you?
7. How can we make our life happier, more meaningful, and more satisfying? Be realistic and be specific.

8. If you finish these questions early, you can discuss the **meaning** and **application** of one of these proverbs: “Bad times come to pass, they do not come to stay.” “Make the most of every opportunity” (Ephesians 5:16) “Teachers open the doors, but you must enter by yourself.” – Chinese Proverb.

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The Paradox of Our Time

Widely circulated and inaccurately credited to numerous authors over the years, “The Paradox of Our Time” still continues to provide inspiration and an opportunity for reflection.

by Dr. Bob Moorehead, a former pastor of Seattle’s Overlake Christian Church; this essay appears as “The Paradox of Our Age” in *Words Aptly Spoken*, Dr. Moorehead’s 1995 collection of prayers, homilies, and monologues.
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-resilient-brain/201901/the-paradox-our-time-or-timeless-paradox>

The paradox of our time in history is that
we have taller buildings but shorter tempers;
wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.
We spend more, but have less;
we buy more but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families,
more conveniences, but less time;
we have more degrees, but less sense;
more knowledge, but less judgement;
more experts, yet more problems,
more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much,
spend too recklessly, laugh too little,
drive too fast, get too angry,
stay up too late, get up too tired,
read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.
We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.
We’ve learned how to make a living, but not a life,
we’ve added years to life not life to years.

We’ve been all the way to the moon and back, but have
trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.
We conquered outer space but not inner space.
We’ve done larger things, but not better things.

We’ve cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.
We’ve conquered the atom, but not our prejudice.
We write more, but learn less.
We plan more, but accomplish less.
We’ve learned to rush, but not to wait.

We build more computers to hold more information to
produce more copies than ever, but we communicate
less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion;
big men and small character;
steep profits and shallow relationships.

These are the days of two incomes but more divorce,
fancier houses but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers,
throw-away morality, one-night stands,

overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say "I Love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.

Give time to Love, give time to speak, give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.



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