

WINDOW ON THE WORD

TAPES AND LITERATURE BY WORD OF TRUTH

January 2024

It has been said, "The heart cannot rejoice in what the mind does not comprehend."

Word of Truth aims to establish the proper link of emotion and intellect

by opening a window on the word.

Chester McCalley

Sound Doctrine

The Grace of Growing Older

The quality of life in later years is determined by the decisions and habits of youth. Whether we are aware of it or not, early years are the preface to later years. Second, the word of God teaches that wisdom should increase with one's age. Third, since all believers possess eternal life, "calendar years" are truly meaningless in many ways. This two-part series presents seven aspects of growing older.

The Preparation for Old Age

Preparation for old age is rooted in the decisions and habits of one's youth. In Numbers 13:25-31, we are told how the land that God had promised Israel was spied out. The spies had returned with an encouraging report about the abundant produce of the land but a very discouraging one about its inhabitants: They were strong and the cities were fortified. All of Israel was full of fear and consternation. However, we are told of a man named Caleb who said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely possess it."

Herein is the key to the long life and vitality of Caleb: determination to believe the promises of God. At this point, Caleb was about forty-five years of age; we will meet him forty years later, very much alive and still believing the promises of God. Given a promise and a problem, Caleb always focuses on the promise. This was his life-long habit; and this is why, at age eighty-five, he was ready and able to march into the land and claim his inheritance. Of the population

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Suggested Studies

The Believer and Old Age

Getting old! If ever there was an unpopular subject, this has to be it. We live in a world that worships youth and encourages us to fight the aging process with every ounce of energy we possess. But face it—sooner or later, most of us will reach that point in life known as old age. Oftentimes, we find ourselves dealing with the issue of old age through caring for an aging parent. Wouldn't it be a good idea to find out what God's word says about the believer and old age?

Several times throughout the years, Chester taught on the subject of age. The first series was taught way back in 1987 when he presented a two part lesson on the "Divine Viewpoint on Aging." These messages are coded BP 45-46. The following topics are covered:

- The Preparation for Old Age - Numbers 13-14
- The Prayer of Old Age - Psalm 71
- The Support of Old Age - Isaiah 46:3-4
- The Fruit of Old Age - Psalm 92:12-15
- The Peril of Old Age - Ecclesiastes 4:13
- The Secret of Old Age - Proverbs 10:27
- The Culmination of Old Age

Some time later, he presented "A Message to Youth about Old Age." It is coded BP 142. A third session on aging is called simply "The Believer and Age, parts 1 & 2." These lessons are BP 194-195.

These classes are available for download and streaming on our website, www.wordoftruthkc.org. To order CDs, the best way is to email your order to wtruth@kc.rr.com. Other options are to use enclosed order form and send it to us, or call and leave a message at 1-800-326- 4414. Please be sure to indicate if you'd like these studies in CD or Mp3 format. □

Psalm 1—The Happy Man

Psalm 1 is considered a prologue to the entire book of Psalms. Its introductory nature is shown in its theme: a contrast in the experience of the godly and the wicked. Verses 1-3 center on the happy man, showing that true happiness comes from godliness consisting in total occupation with God as revealed in His word. Verses 4-6 center on the man who stands in contrast to the happy man—the wicked man.

This small 4x5" booklet is available for order as described above. □

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of Israel, which numbered about two million, only Caleb and Joshua believed God's promises. Caleb was a young and vigorous eight-five year old man because from youth he had learned never to doubt the promises of God.

Several times, God repeats the truth that Caleb "followed Me fully" (Numbers 32:11-12 and Deuteronomy 1:36). As a result of these habits of his youth, he says, "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me..." (Joshua 14:11)." God supernaturally preserves those who trust His word and walk with Him. Scripture knows nothing of "declining years!"

The Prayer of Old Age

The prayer is Psalm 71. Here the psalmist speaks of his past of faith (71:1-8), his present of faith (71:9-16), and his future of faith (71:17-24). As he looks back to his youth, he says, "O Lord God, [You are] my confidence from my youth."

The psalmist addresses God concerning three of the concerns of old age. First, he refers to the problem of declining physical strength. "Do not forsake me when my strength fails," he says. Second, he faces the prospect of being abandoned, the problem of loneliness. He thus prays, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age...." Third, he expresses the fear of being victimized. He tells us his enemies are saying, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver." Note that each fear is expressed openly to God—his fellowship with the Lord is ever maintained; he knows how to trust and has done so from his youth.

The writer of this psalm is aware of three things he can do until the day he dies:

He can trust This is found in his words "I will hope continually." This can be done until one draws his or her last breath. The quality of age shines forth in the practice of trusting the Lord. The more it has been practiced in youth, the

more abundant it will be in later years. How we trust the Lord in our teen years has direct bearing on our attitude in later years.

He can grow He addresses the Lord saying he will "praise You yet more and more...." "More and more" is the key. He never grows older in spirit; he grows daily. The command to grow in grace (II Peter 3:18) is applicable to the child, to the teenager, to the young adult, and yes, to the "senior citizen." Growth in grace must never stop.

He can witness "My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness," he says. This is to be the testimony of every believer until his dying day, and even then we can have impact for the Lord. Paul put it this way: "according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death (Philippians 1:20)."

In our next newsletter, we will explore:

- The Support of Old Age (Isaiah 46:3-4)
- The Fruit of Old Age (Psalm 92:12-15)
- The Peril of Old Age (Ecclesiastes 4:13)
- The Secret of Old Age (Proverbs 10:27)
- The Culmination of Old Age (Genesis 25:8, I Chronicles 29:28)

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