

# WINDOW ON THE WORD

TAPES AND LITERATURE BY WORD OF TRUTH

March 2024

*The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity (Psalm 94:11)."*

*It is for this reason that Word of Truth is dedicated to providing  
for all who will hear, a "window on the word."*

Chester A. McCalley

## Sound Doctrine

### The Grace of Growing Older, part 2

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 Support of Old Age, Isaiah 46:3-4

Change is an obvious feature of old age. There is physical change, a daily increasing of things one can no longer physically accomplish. Along with this comes social change; lifelong friends and associates are dying, even one's lifelong mate is lost and one's own years are numbered.

Losses increase with age—loss of sight, hearing, appetite, abilities, friends, etc. In this context, nothing is more needed than a constant, an unchanging something, or more specifically, an unchanging someone. God relates Himself to the aging believer by speaking of them as those "who have been borne by Me from birth, and have been carried from the womb; even to your old age, I shall be the same, and even to your graying years I shall bear you! I have done it, and I shall carry you; and I shall bear you, and I shall deliver you."

Here is the dual support of old age: the constancy of God and the care of God. Old age is a rare opportunity, for it is only when we see things slip away that we appreciate the unchangeableness of God. Old age teaches us to appreciate the immutability of God who says, "I, the LORD, do not change..." (Malachi 3:6).

*"Grace" continued on page 2*

## Suggested Studies

### The Parenting Privilege

*Every virtue that appears in a child comes as a result of training, never chance.*

What is the God-given instruction directed to parents? What is God's will concerning children? In discovering the answer to these questions, we must always bear in mind the fundamental truth of Christianity: The Word of God is the only safe and sufficient guide to truth. All concepts concerning the child-parent relationship must be built on a careful and accurate interpretation of the passages of Scripture relevant to the subject.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, future parent, teacher, or just acquainted with someone in the above categories, you will find this book on the biblical principles of child training a valuable addition to your library. In addition to writing this book, Chester taught many lessons on parenting during his years at Beth Haven Church. The following is a grouping of some of these classes.

- BP 1 Parenthood: Introduction
- BP 2 Parenthood: The Duty to Discipline, Proverbs 13:24
- BP 3 Parenthood in Proverbs, part 1
- BP 4 Parenthood in Proverbs, part 2
- BP 5 Parenthood: The Priority of Obedience, Colossians 3:20
- BP 6 Parenthood: The Responsibility of Fathers
- BP 7 Parenthood: The Single Parent
- BP 44 Proverbs for Parents
- BP 75 Principles of Parenting, part 1
- BP 76 Principles of Parenting, part 2
- BP 77 Principles of Parenting, part 3

These classes are available for downloading or streaming audio on our website, [www.WordofTruthKC.org](http://www.WordofTruthKC.org). If you'd like to order the book or CDs of the classes, indicate the quantity on the order form and return by mail. You can also call the office at 800-326-4414 and leave a message, or the best way to order is to email us at [wtruth@kc.rr.com](mailto:wtruth@kc.rr.com). □

### Word of Truth

#### Mission Statement:

To evangelize and to equip the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ, taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift. (Ephesians 4:11-12, Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 8:20)



## The Fruit of Old Age, Psalm 92:12-15

First, the psalmist establishes imagery, pointing to "the palm tree," the "cedar in Lebanon." The palm tree referred to is the date-bearing type. A single tree of this kind has been known to produce as many as six hundred pounds of dates per season! It is also a tree that remains green in both winter and summer. The secret of the fruitfulness lies in being planted in the "house of the Lord." This is the important thing to note. In fellowship with the Lord, we are fruitful at any age and abundantly so! Second, the psalmist applies this truth to man, saying, "They will still yield fruit in old age...." Old age is a climactic opportunity for fruit bearing; it is as though all of life has been prelude to the fruit bearing of old age. In light of this, age is not to be feared but anticipated, for it can be a time of great fruitfulness.

## The Peril of Old Age, Ecclesiastes 4:13

A poor, yet wise lad is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive instruction." Here is a person who never fully committed himself to wisdom. Three things picture this man. First, he is old, but not mature. Second, he is foolish. Third, he has stopped learning. The words *no longer* indicate that he once learned, but somewhere along the line he stopped—he retired! He retired intellectually, and he retired spiritually. As a result, he has now become irascible. The Hebrew text is a bit stronger than our English translations in saying "who will no more be admonished." He adamantly resists instruction. The old saying "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" hardly stands up to the teaching of the Word of God. Growth is incumbent on God's children at nine and at ninety. The command to *grow in grace* is never rescinded because of age.

## The Secret of Old Age, Proverbs 10:27

Typical of Proverbs is the poignant, terse statement; and we have such a statement in the words that say, "The fear of the Lord prolongs life." Our

relationship to the Lord is the single most important issue in life, and it touches everything else—here it relates to our age. To fear the Lord means to respect His authority. When we so honor God, we promote our own well being and health. We are meant to glorify God, and so doing brings nothing but well being to ourselves.

## The Culmination of Old Age

It is instructive to note some of the dying words of those who spent a lifetime honoring the Lord. Concerning the death of Abraham, we read, "And Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people (Genesis 25:8)."

The same quite dignity and sense of fulfillment is present in the death of Isaac, for we read, "And Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, an old man of ripe age (Genesis 35:29)." The death of David is the same: "Then he died in a ripe old age, full of days, riches and honor (I Chronicles 29:28)."

Finally, recorded in II Timothy 4:6-8 are Paul's words concerning his imminent death, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." Once again, peace in death rests on a life of obedience to the will of God and the good choices of earlier years. May it so be with each of God's own children. □

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