

The Bulwark

JULY 24, 2022

RENEWAL: DAY BY DAY



“Bullet proof”, that seems to be the thought process running through the minds of people when they are young. Invincible, indestructible, a life layered or so it would seem with “Teflon”; the bliss of the halcyon days of youth. Solomon in the eleventh chapter of Ecclesiastes puts all of that type of thinking in perspective, when he bluntly states “childhood and the prime of life are fleeting” (v. 10) A heavy dose of reality and the perfect transition point for his discussion on aging in chapter twelve.

Aging is a fact of life, and for the most part we all will face physical set-backs, accept it. It is only a select few who maybe like Moses, “Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.” (Deuteronomy 34:7) Okay, so the 120 years old may be a stretch, but haven’t you known friends or relatives who “aged” really well? Growing older, more mature is something to celebrate, provided we have the right perspective.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not

fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

While the physical discomforts of life are part and parcel of the aging process, yet they don’t need to creep into the hidden person of the heart. Look at how masterfully Paul brings this to light. “Therefore, we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” (2Corinthians 4:16) We have control over the inner man and day by day each one of us needs to be about spiritual renewal, “...renewed in the spirit of your mind.” (Ephesians 4:23)

With that renewal will come a desire to be of service. A sense of purpose. Notice the words of the 92nd psalm. “The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green.” (vs 12-14) “Full of sap” and “very green” are indicative expressions of vitality. The concept of spiritual retirement is a foreign concept in the Scriptures.

True, as we age we may not be able to do some things that previously we could, but we learn to adapt. The life of a child of God is one of service, seen beautifully laid out in Romans 12. Notice a key thought found therein with respect to service and adapting, “be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2b) Take some time and look over Romans 12 and realize you are not too old to be of service. (wbe)

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