

The Bulwark

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WISDOM: SEASONED WITH TIME

Susan Krauss Whitbourne, PhD, in the January 2012 edition of Psychology Today set forth "15 Wise & Inspiring Quotes About Aging".

Satchel Paige, who broke into major league baseball at the age of 42 (when most players have been retired for a few years) and played his last professional game when he was 60, is famously quoted as saying, "How old

would you be if you didn't know how old you was?" Albert Einstein noted, "I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to." Pearls of wisdom to be sure.

In a 2010 report published in a Singapore newspaper, eight senior citizens shared various life lessons. The article opened with the following, "While aging brings challenges to mind and body, it can also lead to an expansion in other realms. There is an abundance of emotional and social knowledge; qualities which scientists are beginning to define as wisdom." The implication is clear in the article, the wisdom of elders.

"A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness." (Proverbs 16:31) "Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding." (Job 12:12) Most assuredly, older people have a great deal to teach about life. However, not all take advantage of

that rich treasure trove of knowledge. There is found in the Scriptures a powerful example of where one failed abysmally to recognize the wisdom of the aged.



reads about how the people approached the newly crowned king with an appeal to have the heavy tax burden lifted along with the onerous labor that had been imposed by Solomon. As an inducement the people promised loyalty to Rehoboam.

Rehoboam at first showed a measure of wisdom when he sought out the elders of the land for counsel. However, he opted to reject their advice and embraced the foolish direction of the young men who had grown up with him (see 1Kings 12:6-13). In fact, instead of easing the load, even just a tad, on the people, he made it greater. His irresponsibility brought about a severing of the kingdom. Ten tribes left and attached themselves to Jeroboam and became Israel, the northern kingdom. Two tribes remained with Rehoboam and was known as Judah. Such a travesty.

"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." (Psalms 92:12-14)

There is a veritable cornucopia of knowledge residing among us. Knowledge that has been seasoned as it were over time. In his epistle to Titus, Paul famously pointed out the dynamic of the older women teaching the younger women (see chapter two verses three through five) *"You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (1Peter 5:5) (wbe)*

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