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IT AIN'T OVER YET...

Quick question: Are the best days of your life behind you or in front of you? Kind of a loaded question isn't it? The answer to that question depends on a number of elements, not the least of which is one's overall outlook on life. True when we were younger, all we wanted to do was grow up, looking forward to all that adult life brought with it. Then adulthood hits like a ton of bricks as we deal with jobs, family and at times overwhelming responsibility. Our thoughts drift back to the halcyon days of youth, oh to be young once again. Solomon, writing in the book of Ecclesiastes notes, "Do not say, why is that the former days were better than these?..." (7:10) He then goes on to say, "In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider-God made the one as well as the others..." (7:14) Solomon proceeds to show that regardless of where one is age wise, if their walk is with God, then the best is yet to come.



braced and wanted others to do as well, was that of living life expectantly. Bear in mind that when he wrote this epistle, he was under Roman house arrest. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Did you notice the state of expectancy in the verse above? As long as Paul was in the flesh he would be pressing forward. A life recognizing the need to be a light in the world for the cause of Christ. Nothing has changed in this regard; such remains exactly the same for each and every child of God. It ain't over yet and the best is yet to come.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place." (2Corinthians 2:14)

Paul in his epistle to the brethren in Philippi touched on this to some degree as well. In chapter three he spoke of his youth, but then spoke of how his life progressed and how he considered "all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ" (v 8) however he wasn't done: the best was yet to come! "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (3:13-14)

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me..." (Philippians 1:21-22) Clearly the attitude that Paul em-

Think back to Moses, was it over for him when he turned 80 years old? Hardly, in fact one might even say it began then. Moses lived his life in expectation of what God would do next (see Hebrews 11:24-29). He lived with vigor and undimmed eye all the days of his 120 years (see Deuteronomy 34:7), and though he would not enter the promised land, he was able to look and see what lay ahead for the children of Israel. He had fulfilled his life's journey.

True we aren't getting any younger, nevertheless, it ain't over yet. The best is yet to come. We press toward the goal and along the way stay active in the work for the cause of Christ. Do yourself a favor and take some to read over Romans 8:28-31. (wbe)

THE BULWARK