

“How Long Have I to Live?”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Barzillai - 2Sam. 19:31-39

1. Chose to trust God rather than David for the disposition of the end of life
2. Ecc. 12:1-7 - It is a part of God's design that profound changes come to one's body, mind and spirit as he ages.
3. Psalm 71:1-3, 5-9, 17-20 - “The prayer of an old man for deliverance”

B. It is a question of faith

1. How is the love of God manifested in the aging process?
2. I find myself in the role of David: loving the aged ones who did so much for me and wanting them to be rewarded in this world for their good deeds, rather than experience the pain and indignity of aging.
3. Wanting to prolong a relationship and present set of circumstances over which I do not have power
4. Wanting to give them things they no longer want, use, or appreciate
5. All the while, God has given them the moral instruction and both physical and spiritual desire to go home and wait for His call

C. How many precious soldiers of the cross, men and women, have we watched grow tired and incapable of maintaining their posts on the front lines?

1. Bob Waldron's mother in law, Irvyn Lee's wife and author of Mrs. Lee's Bible Stories, near the end of her days lost the ability to know how to word a prayer.
2. Bob Waldron - “I am losing ground.” (conversation) “I enjoyed being with you so much. I had my reservations about that meeting with you. I have loved my relationship with TR so much that I hate not being there again, but I doubt that I will be able to hold another meeting. I love you and the people there very much.” (email: 10/31/13)
3. Bill Wright - Sharpest mind with which I ever shared conversation; conducted himself with dignity; and I watched Parkinsons take that all away too soon. Called me Tim, short for Timothy; he was calling me his true son in the faith.
4. Earl Robertson - I call him Dr. and he calls me Professor. At the dedication of the library he donated to Florida College, his heartfelt greeting was the last time I spoke with him face to face; and now, he is unable to leave his home.
5. Clarence Rice - Old school preacher with the confidence that only comes from strong faith, and when I see him now he can only hold my hand and cry
6. Paul Casebolt - No one ever took the work of a gospel preacher seriously than Paul, and the last time I saw him, he had to be helped into the pew at the meeting house
7. And multitudes more...

D. Where is the love of God in the aging process? How long do I have to live?

I. What Blessings Has God Bestowed On The Aged?

1. Honor - Lev. 19:32; Job 32:4, 6; 1Chron. 29:28; Prov. 23:22
2. Wisdom - Job 12:12, 32:7; 1Kings 12:6, 8, 13-14
3. Strength - Isa. 46:4; Psalm 71:9, 17-18; Deut. 33:25; Isa. 40:29; Joshua 14:7, 10
4. Grandchildren - Prov. 17:6; Ruth 4:13-15
5. Many Years - Psalm 90:10; Gen. 25:8; Job 5:26; Psalm 91:14, 16
 - a. A long life is not an entitlement; it is a gift

Conclusion:

- A. 2Cor. 4:16 - 5:10