

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Aging

"By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it."
– George Burns

"Oh to be seventy again." (on seeing an attractive woman on his 90th birthday) – Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

"Forty is the age of youth; fifty the youth of old age." – Victor Hugo

"In youth the absence of pleasure is pain; in old age the absence of pain is pleasure." – *Old Farmer's Almanac* (1892)

It is no fun growing old. Solomon gives the painful reminder (Eccl. 12:2-8).

We slowly lose the control that we have had through life, and as the clouds return (12:2) our afflictions seem to be compounded. The "keepers of the house" are trembling, as the older we get, the shakier we become (12:3). The "strong men bow" and the "grinders cease," as we don't walk as straight as we used to and our teeth seem to be fewer and fewer. And as "the look of the windows are darkened" our eyesight gets dimmer as the days go by. And who could forget the "doors being shut to the streets" as it seems harder to hear what people are saying (12:4). Ah yes, and the "grinding is low" as the digestive system just can't handle the food like it used to. Unfortunately, one also gets "afraid of that which is high" as their balance and sure-footedness just isn't there (12:5). Indeed as a result "fears shall be in the way" as they are afraid they might fall. And who could forget "the almond tree flourishing" as the color of the hair changes to white. And the sexual "desires" fail. And then follows death as "man goes to his long home."

Alright Solomon, do you have to be so vivid and depressing? Whew it sounds rough getting old! It is like the actress Bettie Davis once reportedly said, "Old age ain't for sissies."

You often hear people speaking of growing old gracefully, as though there is an art to it. Perhaps that is the basis of an old English Proverb which says, "The older the fiddle the sweeter the tune." It is hard to look upon aging with such rose colored glasses, but then outlook makes all the difference in how we handle growing older.

Yes, old age is difficult, but it does not mean that one quits serving the Lord! You may not look, feel, or sound as good as you used to, but if you love the Lord then do what you can in His service!