



Managing your Golden Years: It's all about perspective!

We often go through life without giving much thought to what life will be like in our "Golden Years," when we are in old age. Perhaps it would benefit us to look into managing that time of life before it arrives. What kind of productivity should we expect, and how should we live our lives then? Let's start this journey in Titus.

(Titus 2:1-3) But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: {2} That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. {3} The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much



wine, teachers of good things;

This brief section from Titus has something to say about both men and women. Here, we receive dynamic direction for old age regarding personal productivity and vitality of life?

Verse two provides us with several cool words that I'd like to quickly clarify. "Sober" means, "vigilant." "Grave" means, "honest" or "honorable." "Temperate" means, "self-controlled." "Sound in faith"

refers to "having sound health in your believing of God's Word." "Charity" means, "agape," how you live according to its dynamic characteristics from 1 Corinthians 13. "Patience" was accurately translated, and can also be translated "endurance." These unique characteristics certainly chart a wonderful course for our more aged believers.

When you jump to verse three, you see that the aged women "likewise" follow suit. They are to manifest these same characteristics! Some additional requests are made by God for women. He asks them to have "holy behavior." The word behavior refers to their "demeanor," how they come across to others. The

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next three words really ought to capture your attention. “Not false accusers” come from one Greek word – diabolos. If you never studied Greek, you’d still be able to ascertain the general meaning of this word – devil. Aged women are specifically requested to not be devilish. Wow! That’s amazing. Men are not asked this. Just the aged women. *I guess God knows more about women than we do.* He knows that some aged women will have issues with this kind of behavior and that they will have to diligently guard against it. The next two phrases don’t really need explanation. Aged women are not supposed to drink a lot of wine or spirits, and they are supposed to teach good things. The good things are really right things, specifically meaning God’s Word.

These two, power-packed verses

in Titus really get us situated on our journey to learn about the Golden Years. Now, we know that older folks aren’t supposed to sit around, doing nothing. They are to be actively involved in younger people’s lives, helping them gain a far greater understanding of the application of God’s Word than they could ever gain on their own!

(Psa 92:12-15) The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. {13} Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. {14} They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; {15} To show that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Talk about a perspective changer.

Psalms teaches us that older folks

are supposed to “still bring forth fruit in old age.” How refreshing! This should counter any fears of non-productivity in case you are harboring them, that is. I think that many people wonder if they will be productive as they get older. A common message from our mass entertainment sources seems to be contrary to this, but God’s Word is clear. Aged men and women are supposed to bring forth God’s fruit!

(Isa 46:3-4) Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: {4} And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

What do you believe about God’s promised care for you? Do you

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believe that He will care for you? This is the best Long Term Care insurance policy you could ever purchase. "Hoar hairs," in verse four, refers to "grey hair." Isn't this a great comfort? God will take care of His people, all the way through old age! So, stop worrying about that time of your life. Plan and prepare as best you can. Then give the rest to God. He will be your care-taker!

(Prov 16:31) The hoary head is a crown of glory (beauty), if it be found in the way of righteousness.

We are righteous as Christians. When we are old with grey hair, we will still be beautiful in God's sight. Let's be sure to be found in the way of righteousness now and then.

(Psa 37:23-27) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his

way. {24} Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. {25} I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. {26} He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. {27} Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

God will always be there to help and assist in any endeavor according to His Word.

His people won't need to beg for bread. His people will always be cared for. This promise applies to both young and old. His promises will always hold true. Do you truly hold His promises?

I'd like to give you some food for thought. Consider some men of old and what things they

produced. Did you know that Noah was 500 years old and had kids:

(Gen 5:32) And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

How about Abram? Abram had a child at 86 and then again at nearly 100 years old:

(Gen 16:16) And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

(Gen 17:1) And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

(Gen 17:17) Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah,

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that is ninety years old, bear?
(Gen 18:11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Isaac was no exception either. Isaac had twins when he was 60 years old:

(Gen 25:25-26) And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. {26} And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Moses was 80 years old when he spoke to Pharaoh; Aaron was 83:

(Exo 7:7) And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron

fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.

(Deu 34:7) And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Caleb was 85 and, amazingly had all of his natural vitality:

(Josh 14:10-11) And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me (Caleb) alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. {11} As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

Joshua had fantastic advice before he died at 110 years old:

(Josh 23:10-11) One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you. {11} Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

Naomi, in her older age, thought that she was too old to have a husband:

(Ruth 1:12) Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

We all know how this turned out. Naomi was too old, but Ruth was not! Jesus Christ was born out of

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this bloodline!

(Ruth 4:13-17) So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. {14} And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. {15} And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. {16} And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. {17} And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Here are some words of wisdom from Proverbs for the Golden Years.

Have lots of kids.

(Prov 17:6) Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Raise your children up according to God's Word.

(Prov 22:6) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Learn from your father and mother.

(Prov 23:22) Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

Isaiah provides us with great

wisdom applicable for all age groups.

(Isa 50:7-10) For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. {8} He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. {9} Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old [become old] as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. {10} Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

(Jer 6:16) Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the

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ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

What is your belief about God's ability in your life this day and at your particular age? Do you best to make it track according to God's Words.

(Luke 1:36-37) And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. {37} For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Elisabeth, who gave birth to John the Baptist, believed that God would care for her and carry her through that time. Abram and Sarah did too:

(Rom 4:19-20) And being not

weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: {20} He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Learn to renew your mind to the truth in God's Word. Get rid of the old man and his thoughts and ways. Change to the new man and you'll be able to change your perspective on your Golden Years too. *Maybe its time to destroy the old man within?*

(Rom 6:6-8) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. {7} For he that is dead is freed from sin. {8} Now if we be dead with

Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

It IS time to put on the new man.

(Eph 4:22-24) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; {23} And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; {24} And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Managing your Golden Years has all to do with managing your thoughts. And this is not something that you wait years to begin. You should start now, so that, when you are old, you will be prepared and able to manage any and every situation. God wants to take care of you; do you want Him to? Then your "Golden Years" perspective must

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be encased with His Love and promises. Your perspective must be actively tuned into God's Will and right way of living. Never stop re-directing your thoughts heaven-ward. *You will always be rewarded, even in old age, if you do.* Always expect greatness in your golden years!

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown