

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Zeal After Retirement

(Jerry Fite)

IT has been observed more than once that people die not from old age, but from retirement. When one works a number of years doing specific work, and then retires from the day to routine, he or she may be lost for awhile as to how their hours will be spent. The reality is they will be spent. Will you spend them sitting around doing nothing, or will you find activities of interest to engage your mind and body? That is the question, and a major component in determining how one fares in the autumn and winter years of their life.

The Bible does not put an age limit on how long we serve the Lord with zeal. Being zealous for good works is based upon Christ giving Himself for us and purifying us from our sin. Being drawn to Him and belonging to Him, we are zealous to do that which is good unto Him in the world (Titus 2:14).

This appreciation should deepen with age, not wane. Retirement from secular work should not mean we diminish our spiritual fervor for good works. Ceasing

the daily “eight to five” or “four twelve’s” routine should be considered as more time for Bible study, meditation, prayer and talking about the Lord to others.

Zeal boils up in the spirit transcending the fleshly body and time. Knowing we are closer to heaven than we were thirty years ago should renew our spirits, not dampen them because we experience more aches and pains (2 *Corinthians 4: 16-18*). The demand to serve the Lord fervently continues as long it is possible to be slothful in our service (*Romans 12:11*).

Hillary Clinton will be 69 years old this year; Donald Trump will be 70; and Bernie Sanders will be 75. Ben Carson is a retired neurosurgeon and approaching 65 this year, but he is actively engaged with these other “older” citizens running for the highest office in the land. If they are filled with zeal to serve their country past what many consider to be retirement years, should we not even exceed in fervor for serving the Lord in eternal matters as citizens in the heavenly kingdom?

We should have the attitude of Paul who considered himself in his 60’s as “aged” (*Philemon 9*), but still fervently desired to “magnify Christ in his body” whether by “life” or “death” (*Philippians 1:20*). Making Christ great in our life, overflowing to others should be our routine in our retirement years.

Psalms 71 helps us see the heart and life of the godly older person. In advanced age, one still trusts in the Lord as his “refuge”, “rock”, “fortress” and “hope” as he did when he was young (v. 1, 3, 5,). He is not slack in praising God for he says, “*My praise shall be continually of thee*” (v. 6). This daily praise is especially important for he says, “*My mouth shall tell of thy righteousness, and of thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof*” (v. 15). Pleading to God, this “old and “grayheaded” man says, “*...O God, forsake me not, until I have declared thy strength unto the next generation...*” (v.18). Never retire your zeal for the Lord! The godly serve the Lord till death, not till retirement!