

GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY

Dear Friend:

Can you remember life before television, when all the radio shows were all the rave? (Sorry, I can't!). Can you remember when you only had the option of three networks? Can you remember Rock 'N Roll, JFK, Richard Nixon and Watergate? How about Vietnam, Pac-Man, and Space Invaders? If you said yes to at least two of these, guess what? You are growing old! I am sure all of you reading this get the picture: you are born, you grow-up, you grow old, you die. The circle of life and death. No one cheats death, it always wins. However, if you are a Christian, you ultimately win because you spend eternity in heaven.

The Apostle Paul knew his life was coming to an end and he writes some sobering words in 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul is in a jail cell in Rome, and he wanted to write his protege Timothy a few final words. Read the passage and you will discover that Paul, in perhaps his final epitaph lays-out for Timothy instructions on how to grow old gracefully. Here's Paul's lesson to Timothy. First, to grow old gracefully is to accept the fact that death visits us all and God has a time for our departure. It is morbid to think about death night and day, but it's foolish NOT to think about death much at all. Our departure time is in God's hands. Second, to grow-old gracefully be sure you have lived the Christian life, you have fought against Satan, sin, and sloth. Paul "fought the fight". He did not watch it from the sideline, he did not run away from the battle, he fought all that was evil. Third: Keep the faith. The phrase "keep the faith" originates from the 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have kept the faith". Live the Christian life long enough and you will see many who once had the faith but have given-up the faith, or worse, they have turned against the faith. Fourth: to grow old gracefully, finish the race. This is slightly different than "keeping the faith". Finish the race simply means this: do not coast into your older years but get to the finish line still running the race. Fifth: Remember the reward. Grow old gracefully and there is in store for you a crown for which you can't even imagine. Don't wait until your next birthday, ask yourself now: "Am I growing old gracefully".

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer: Victims of the fires in Hawaii, Helen Martindale (cancer), Clarabell Harlan on her 99th birthday (August 18)

Events: Monday, August 21, Management Team meeting 7:00pm.
Friday, August 25, 6:45am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
at Tim Horton's on Fodor Rd.