

dec 16, 2022

the end of all things

"but the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. and above all things have fervent love for one another." 1 pet 4:7

all beginnings must have an end. if God had a beginning, He too would have an end. but because He always was, He always will be. He has desired to share that eternity with us - so much so, He gave His very best.

i think about such things often, now that age has taken hold of me. in the beginning of life, it seems limitless. towards the end, it appears fleeting at best. i know many people don't want to talk of such things, but i think it is important to evaluate one's life, especially as they see their end fast approaching. the bible tells us to "number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." psa 90:12 wisdom can come with age but it's not a prerequisite.

"therefore, though i might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, yet for love's sake i rather appeal to you - being such a one as paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ." phil 1:8-9 although paul was an actual prisoner because of Jesus Christ, i think he was speaking more of being a prisoner to the will of Jesus Christ, the old man having being defeated and the new man now a willing captive. numbering his days allowed him the wisdom of God instead of the foolishness of man.

"eighty-six years have i have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. how can i blaspheme my King and my Savior?" that was declared by the aged polycarp, a disciple of the apostle john, as he stood in 155 AD before the roman judge who ordered him to deny his faith or be killed.

i think of david, the aged king, lying alone in his bed, unable to keep himself warmed. it was decided to get a young virgin to lie in his bed next to him, helping to warm him. (see story in 1 king 1.) from my previous marriage, i well remember the body heat of another laying next to me. time and age even caught up with the man after God's own heart. this is the way of all flesh while only our spirit remains forever.

it was the poet robert browning who wrote, "the best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made." we who know the Lord know what "best" is awaiting us and it won't be in this life.

i have a dear friend who is writing her memoirs. she has led a fruitful life with the Lord Jesus. i look forward to reading them. have i gained any wisdom from "numbering" my days? have i borne any fruit worth harvesting? God alone has the tally for that. it is all in His book.

i know only this: "they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." psa 92:14-15 that's a promise from the Word of God. and in the words of yogi

berra, it ain't over 'til it's over... not until the trumpet calls. so, "now for a little while, if need be" (1pet 1:6), i must bear the fruit of sinful, aging flesh, my spirit will look to the "best" that is yet to come. while life remains and my senses remain intact, i have hopes i will bear fruit; fruit appealing and acceptable to my Lord and Savior.

yes, all things that have a beginning will have an end. time and age alert me to that each day; that my end is nearing. should the God i love and serve not come for me before then, i will surely go to Him. i will go to the One who has no beginning and therefore will have no end. He's my lover and my closet friend. You are El Shaddi, God Almighty. You're my beginning and my end. i pray He's your beginning as well. i hope to see you also in the "best" yet to come... in your time.