

feb 7

this is a message that probably won't concern many today, but that does not mean it should not be shared. i was thinking today about retired people. maybe because i'm one, i don't know. i think it was the Lord impressing it on me though. i'm remembering the scripture. "they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing." psa 92:14 the center notes in my bible says fresh and flourishing means the same as "full of oil" and "green".

i can certainly testify to the "full of oil" part if one is spending that extra time provided with the Lord. and green can mean "full of life and vigor". yes, still growing and even producing. in isaiah 46:4 God has promised us, "even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." God never ordained for our fruit to cease.

fellow retirees, this is not a time for us to slow down, especially in the times we are living. i don't know if it was ever appropriate for christians to relax and rest on their laurels. our assignment given by the Lord remains active. can we rest as though our work was done? only Jesus can do that. at least until the time comes for Him to execute the wrath of God. (one might say this is the "intermission".)

the task set before us is the same as it has always been: to gather in the harvest while time remains. soon, time as we know it will be no more. whatever harvest is lost will remain forever lost. of course,

when we speak of harvest, we mean souls. precious people that may not have been our assigned area, but loved by someone; loved and facing an eternity without God.

hopefully, if we have spent these years learning about the things of God, we are better equipped to help those seeking. i have gleaned from others; things which they have gleaned from those before them. revelations come from God, and once they are shared, they are free for all to embrace. we credit someone when we feel it is appropriate. there are certain revelations God has sealed up until the determined time. now, just as the seals in revelation are beginning to open, things God has sealed are being opened. opened to those who are seeking.

knowledge, wisdom and revelation are not a single man's possession. all things have their origin in God and came forth from God. He is the beginning and He will be the end. yes, even the evil one was birthed in God. because God wanted freedom and not robots, lucifer became corrupted because of his beauty. there was nothing before God, and should He ever cease to be, nothing would remain.

there was a song from years back. "now is the time if you're gonna serve Him." it is always now with God. whether it be yesterday, today or tomorrow, it is always now with God. this life we spend and the effort we make in our now, will dive deep into eternity.

so let your latter years be spent for God and not for self. reach out to young and old alike, sharing and

teaching those who would draw from your well. i thank God i had a mentor in my early walk with Jesus. there were many wrong turns i might have made to divert me from that narrow path that leads to life. and there are mantels to be passed.

when elisha refused leave his mentor elijah, he witnessed his exit in the chariots. because of his doggedness, he did receive the double portion he sought. as he went to return across the river jordan by himself, he also struck the waters to part them and declared: "where is the Lord God of elijah?" 2 kings 2:14 and the God of elijah answered. we need elijahs today.

God likes our doggedness when it is in our pursuit of Him. jacob had his doggedness in gen 32:28. "you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." none of us must ease up on our "doggedness". not just because we see our time slipping away. because we see time itself slipping away. this "age of grace" is slipping away and too many souls with it.

so what is our mission retirees? the same as it has always been. "and the Spirit and the bride say, "come!" and let him who hears say, "come!" and let him who thirsts come. whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." rev 22:17 otherwise, they will surely drink of His wrath.

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