

## Planning for Our Later Years (Part 2)

Luke 2:25-27, 36-37; Psalm 71:18

- “People are deeply moved when they see a Godly believer finish life well.”  
Martin DeHaan II
- “Don’t take grace as an invitation to live carelessly... you will miss out on heavenly rewards and distort your legacy.”  
Martin DeHaan II

*Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.* Proverbs 23:23 (NASB)

### **I. Seven challenges in our later life:**

1. Physical decline
2. Vocational disappointment
3. Family changes
4. Adapting to retirement
5. Death of a spouse
6. Losing our independence
7. Evaluating our legacy & life story

### **II. Three dangers:**

- Feel successful but unsatisfied
- Feel unsuccessful & frustrated
- Believe you are what you accumulated or accomplished

### **III. Elements of finishing well:**

Psalm 27:4 Page #565

Psalm 5:1 Page #553

1. Increasing time with our Lord.

But He answered and said, It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 (NASB)

Psalm 92:12

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## 2. Meaningful ministry.

*"But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more"* 1 Thes. 4:10 (NASB)

*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ ...* 2 Cor. 2:14-16 (NASB)

## 3. Enjoyable relationships

*Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.* 1 Thes. 2:8 (NASB)

*A joyful heart is good medicine...* Proverbs 17:22 (NASB)

2 Timothy 4:7-8

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## 4. Loving His appearing

### Questions for this week:

#### I. For Starters:

1. Read the following quotes that were mentioned Sunday and discuss. If you think they are both true-explain. If they need to be clarified –explain.
  - *"People are deeply moved when they see a Godly believer finish life well."*  
Martin DeHaan II
  - *"Don't take grace as an invitation to live carelessly... you will miss out on heavenly rewards and distort your legacy."* Martin DeHaan II

## II. Overview of Scripture

1. Read Luke 2:25-38. Why do you think Luke wants to focus on these particular "older" people?
2. What does verse 38 indicate about Simeon and Anna?

## III. Growing deeper

1. Review Sunday's message with someone.
  - Discuss the "*Seven challenges in our later life.*" Which of these concern you or you wonder about?
  - Discuss the "*Four perspective dangers.*" Which one would you most likely be tempted to succumb to and why? What can you do to make sure you do not fall into that danger?
  - Review the three "*Elements of finishing well.*" Discuss with the Lord and with at least one other person how you are doing with these three now in your life and how you can increase these three as you grow older.
2. Read Joshua 13:1 and Joshua 23:1-2. What do you notice about Joshua and why is this encouraging?
3. What must we include in our later years? Proverbs 17:22
4. According to Matthew 6:33, what should be our main concern now and later in our retirement years?
5. According to Matthew 6:34, what must we keep in mind as we grow older and face uncertainty?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. What sober warning is meant for us and how should this truth affect our daily lives, especially as we grow older?
7. Pray for one another that you will finish well, fight the good fight to the end and glorify Christ all the days of your life.