

Let's Visit

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The Quality of Life

In Psalms 102 and verses 23 through 28, we find the Psalmist considering his own personal condition. He considers himself as one who has but a narrow span of life remaining and even that small span is likely to be shortened. His heart is troubled at the thought of the brevity of mortal life.

The length of our life is regarded by us very differently. A lot depends on the portion of life we have spent. In youth, it seems long, and we are eager to get on further. We anticipate the coming years. However, as we get older, it seems short indeed. Often we wish we were younger than we are. We think of the song George Burns sang many years ago, "I Wish I Was 18 Again". Often, that does seem to be the longing of our hearts.

Many, who are immersed in cares or pleasures, have no time to measure the life they are fast expending. To the thoughtful as well as to the imaginative, human life seems a painfully short time in which to sustain its pure and holy relationship. It is a very short time to gather life's fruits of learning and wisdom. It is a brief span to do life's work and achieve some solid and enduring task. All too soon the flowers wither and life is over. Look at what the Psalmist says in verse 11, "My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass."

This pensiveness is deepened by the thought of the uncertainty of life. Sudden sickness comes. The strong man in his prime is laid on the bed of death. The squeal of tires, the sound of steel making contact with steel, the glass breaks, the accident occurs and men and women are removed in an hour from the scenes of their activity and the homes of their affection.

This passage is an earnest, impassioned prayer for a long life. It is a prayer against death, and the

fact that gives it its earnestness and impassioned energy is that the one who offers this prayer is in the "midst of his days".

It is not a child who has never experienced life. It is a life mature but not aged. Old age has been denied to many of God's beloved ones. It was denied to the son himself. We may desire length of days. There are many motives, worthy motives which prompt this desire and yet, this desire is often refused. God may have some better thing for us and for our loved ones.

But the real sadness is not in such shortened lives. The real sadness is in those which end, not literally in the midst of their days, but with the real purpose of life unachieved.

We must never confuse quantity of life with quality of life. It is natural for us to pray for a long life. Cain outlived Abel, yet, who had the most complete life. Abel is mentioned as one of the "Heroes of the Faith" in Hebrews chapter 11.

Methusaleh lived 969 years. Yet, what is remembered about Methusaleh besides his age? The Genesis account tells us Methusaleh begat Lamech and sons and daughters, lived 969 years and he died. That's all.

However, contrast the life of Methusaleh with the life of his father, Enoch. Enoch lived only 365 years. Yet, his life must have been filled with a lot

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In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"Wonder Drugs For The Soul"

Our text comes from I Timothy 4:7-8. In this age we live in with so many "wonder drugs" for all our ailments, we need some "wonder drugs" for the soul. We'll take a look at that in this lesson.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Instant Potatoes (any variety)

The Quality of Life – continued from page 1

of living. Rich living and rewarding experiences and "Enoch walked with God"

Jesus lived just 33 years, and yet look at the completeness of His life. He is remembered 2,000 years later. He sought to do the will of the Father and we are told in Acts chapter 10 that "He went about doing good."

When can a life be called complete? When we put things in their proper perspective, then life begins to be complete. It is then that we can concentrate on the quality of life.

We spend too much time in this life emphasizing the wrong things. Why should it take a grave illness or death to bring us to our senses? Why should it take some tragedy to make us forget the trivialities that often engulf us? Why does it take misfortune to cause us to put things in their proper perspective?

The most valuable possession we have is our soul. Prudence demands that our first consideration be given to the welfare of our soul.

Do you remember Solomon? He tried it all. He concluded that to fear God and keep his commandments was the whole duty of man.

Our life is complete when we give it completely to Jesus Christ. When we make him the Lord and

Master of our lives. When we are zealously engaged in good works and are ready unto every good work.

We are never quite ready to leave this life and we are never quite ready for our loved ones to leave. I well remember what my little grandmother used to say. She always said, "heaven is my home, but I'm not homesick".

But we must always be ready to accept the will of God. One of the best examples of someone ready to accept God's will is the Apostle Paul. Paul wanted to stay and labor, yet he also had a desire to be with Christ. He would write in Philippians 1:21-24, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour; yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt tow, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better; Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."* He left it all in God's hands.

There is a life beyond. A complete life is really not complete in this world. It must be blessed with the presence of God in heaven to attain perfection, as we long for the mansion not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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On The Lighter Side....



"Steve here just made a call on a prospective member and his Doberman . . ."

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Betty Miller was scheduled for an MRI this past Thursday due to abdominal issues.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick (back issues) **Gene Bradshaw** (recovering from surgery), **Martha Jean Golden** (recovering from a fall) **Debra Pate** (waiting for more tests from a recent mild stroke) **Jerry Pate** (knee replacement surgery scheduled for April) **Wayne Sims** (cancer);

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Butler (Debra Pate's grandson) **Paul Cocklin** (co-worker of Norma Perkins) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-grandaughter) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Ernie Hill** (Jerry Pate's cousin) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

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When asked what he thought of the two candidates for the election, an enlightened voter replied:

"Well, when I look at them I'm thankful only one of them can get elected".

To allow an error to go unchallenged is to participate in it.

It has been estimated that the number of times the average person says "No" to temptation is once weakly.

Experience is what causes a person to make new mistakes instead of the same old ones.

Tact is the unsaid part of what you think.

Always work on the future. It's a little too late to ruin the past.

Save The Date!
Sunday June 6th



Tentatively, this will be our next Covered Dish Luncheon.

Remember-

We are collecting toilet paper for the Children's Home of Lubbock. There is a basket in the foyer for you to place the toilet paper in. They will be here the end of May to pick up what we have collected. Let's make sure they have a trailer load!

"COMMITMENT
IS WHAT
TRANSFORMS
A PROMISE INTO
REALITY."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Remember, while we are not requiring masks, we still want to be respectful of others "personal space" and also we will still sit "socially distanced" for the time being. Hopefully, as the number of cases locally declines and the number of people vaccinated increases we can return to a more normal way of doing things!





Across The Preacher's Desk

If you come to our home and look in the refrigerator for the margarine, you won't find any. You will, however, find real, sweet cream butter in both salted and unsalted varieties. We use butter at our house, lots of butter and I have the waistline to prove it! This morning, as I applied a generous amount of butter to my biscuits, I watched it turn into a beautiful golden liquid as it soaked into that dry biscuit. That beautiful golden liquid made me think of the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:12, you know, the passage we call the "golden rule".

Jesus said, "whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them". Have you ever thought what a difference that would make in our world if we put that into practice in our lives? Some of the luster of that passage has been lost because it is tossed about so glibly and has been used on so many "plaques" that we hang on the wall. Yet, just like generous application of golden butter enriches a biscuit (or anything else!) every relationship in our lives could be improved and enriched by a generous application of Jesus' "golden rule".

If we would take a moment and remember these words of Jesus, it would drastically change our disposition, our words and our actions. Take a look at life from the other person's point of view. Let's make sure we use a portion of the golden rule in our lives as generously as the portion of butter we want on our biscuits!

it's something to think about....tlbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**