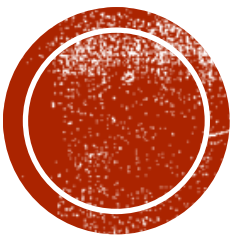


# **FINISHING WELL**

**No Matter How Old You Are,  
It's Not Over Yet**

LBC Biblical Counseling Series

February 19, 2023



TRUCKS

DON'T BE FOOLED  
4 MORE MILES  
OF STEEP GRADES  
AND SHARP CURVES





TRUCKERS YOU ARE NOT DOWN YET  
ANOTHER 1½ MILES OF STEEP GRADES  
AND SHARP CURVES TO GO

A yellow rectangular warning sign with black text is mounted on a metal structure. Above the sign are three illuminated amber lights. The sign is positioned over a road with a concrete barrier. In the foreground, the top of a yellow truck is visible. The background shows a hazy, overcast sky and some trees.

# QUESTIONS

- Why does God keep people around?
  - Believers
  - Unbelievers
- How does this run counter to the growing euthenasia movement?
- What are your goals for the next 10, 20, 30 years?
- How do we navigate the practical issues of being on our “last lap”?
- What is the role of “last lappers” in the church?

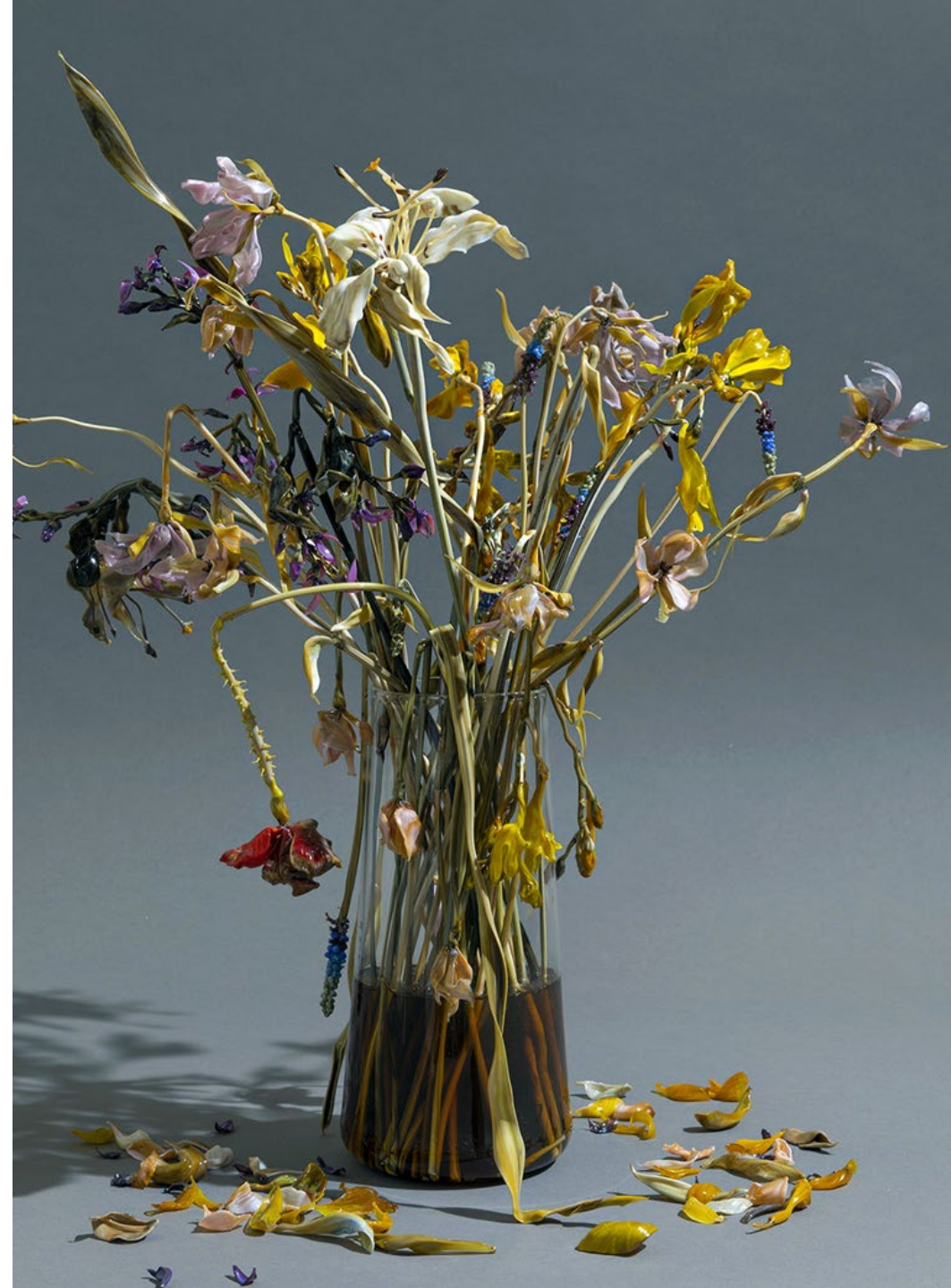


# OUR FUTURE

A voice says, "Call out."  
Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like  
the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
The people are indeed grass!  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the word of our God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:6-8





## OUR FUTURE

- for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” I Peter 1:24-25
- As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. Psalm 103:15-16
- because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. James 1:10-11



# THE WORLD FIGHTS IT – OWN IT

For all our days have dwindled away in Your fury; We have finished our years like a sigh. As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is only trouble and tragedy; For it quickly passes, and we disappear. Who understands the power of Your anger And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? **So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:9-12**

**“Lord, let me know my end, And what is the extent of my days;** Let me know how transient I am. Behold, You have made my days like hand widths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Certainly all mankind standing is a mere breath. **Psalm 39:4-5**



# OUR CHALLENGE

**The righteous man** will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, **They will flourish** in the courts of our God. **They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green, To declare that the Lord is upright;** He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Psalm 92:12-15

- **How can we be pliable and fruitful as we decline?**
- **Who best to declare God's righteousness and faithfulness?**





# A CRITICAL MINISTRY - PROCLAIMING TO THE NEXT GENERATION

- So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. Psalm 71:18
- We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. Psalm 78:4
- that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, Psalm 78:6
- One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. Psalm 145:4-5



# BEING INTENTIONAL ABOUT PROCLAIMING

- How do we see and remember what God has done?
  - For us
  - For others
- How can we be specific?
- How do we recognize His glory (attributes) behind His mighty acts?
- How do we proclaim?
  - To our families?
  - To others?



# SIMEON

And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

**“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”**

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and [m]rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Luke 2:25-35





## ANNA

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. **At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

Luke 2:36-38



# SAMUEL

- Then Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me and I have appointed a king over you. Now, here is the king walking before you, **but I am old and gray**, and behold my sons are with you. And I have walked before you from my youth even to this day.
- Here I am; bear witness against me before the Lord and His anointed. Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? I will restore it to you.” **I Samuel 12:1-5**
- Then Samuel said to the people, “**It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. So now, take your stand, that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord which He did for you and your fathers. I Samuel 12:6-11**



# SOLOMON



# DANIEL

15	• Exiled, declined king's food
18	• Interprets king's dream
30's	• Fiery furnace
50's	• Nebuchadnezzar judged • Handwriting on wall
70's-80's	• Promoted • Lion's den • Prophetic visions
84	• Died



- “But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.” Daniel 12:13
- Daniel was “done”, but was he really?



# A SPECIAL MINISTRY

## Older Men

- Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Titus 2:2
- A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness. Proverbs 16:31
- The “Patriarch”
  - Maintaining the family “guardrails”
  - The Rechabites - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Rechabites.html>

## Older Women

- Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women** to love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Titus 2:3-4





# SUPPORTING ROLES VALUED BY GOD

- The one who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and the one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person shall receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones just a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." Matt 10:41-42
- Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. 3 John 1:5-8
- For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10



# IT'S NOT ABOUT AMOUNT

- “For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.” 2 Corinthians 8:12
- “Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21:1-4



# GOD IS PATIENT, THE WICKED ARE OCCUPIED....

- In the parable of the wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24–43) Jesus relates how servants eager to pull up weeds were warned that in so doing they would root out the wheat as well and were told to let both grow together until the harvest.
- Arise, O Lord, confront him, bring him low;  
Deliver my soul from the **wicked** with Your sword,  
From men with Your hand, O Lord, **from men of the world, whose portion is in this life, And whose belly You fill with Your treasure; They are satisfied with children, And leave their abundance to their babes.** Psalm 17:13-15



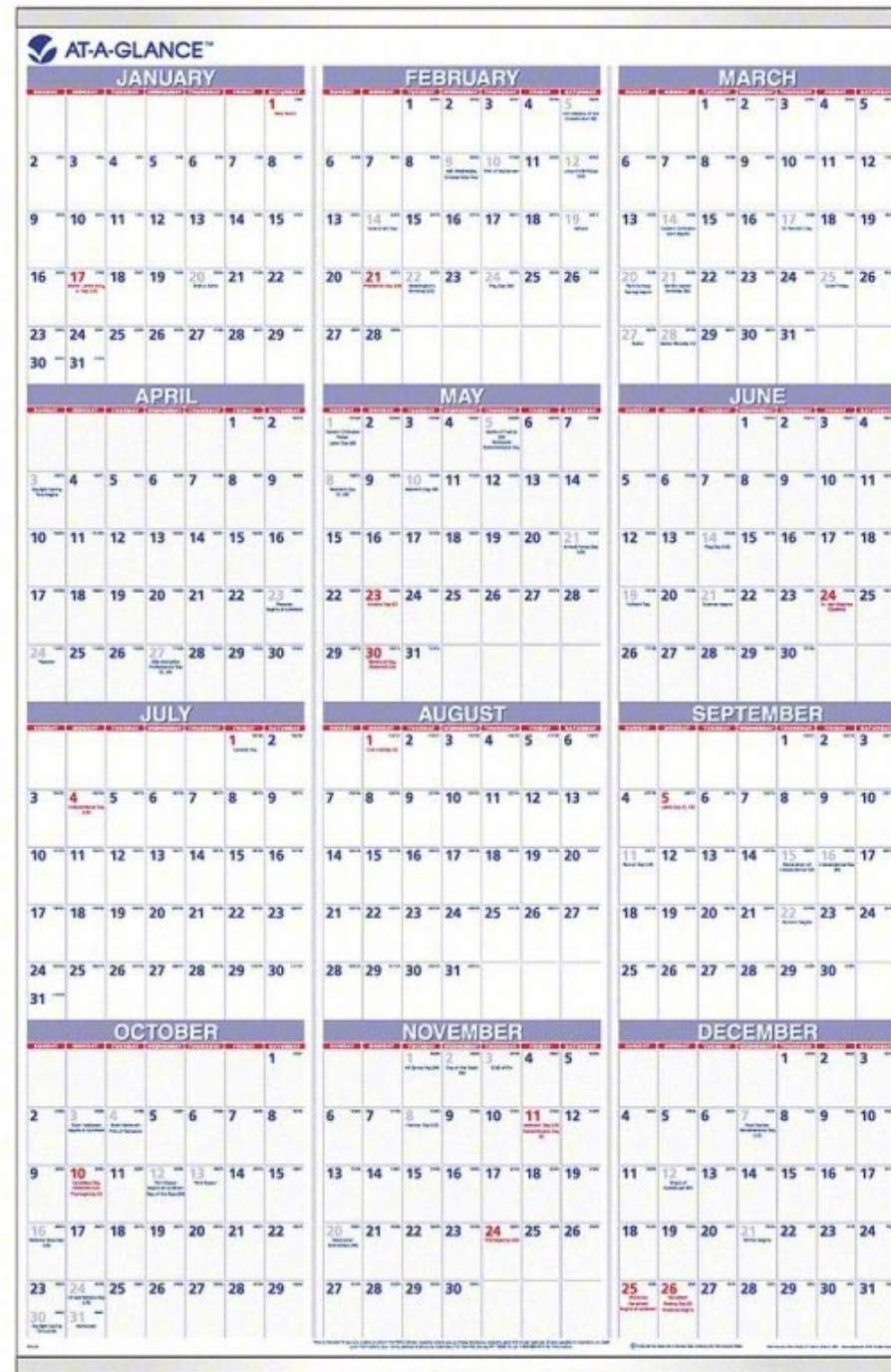
## ... UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE

- For he sees that even wise men die; The stupid and the senseless alike perish And leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses are forever And their dwelling places to all generations; **They have called their lands after their own names.**  
But man in his pomp will not endure; He is like the beasts that perish. This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words.  
Psalm 49:10-13
- How great are Your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep.  
A senseless man has no knowledge, Nor does a stupid man understand this:  
That when the wicked sprouted up like grass And all who did iniquity flourished,  
It was only that they might be destroyed forevermore. Ps 92:5-7
- The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. Nahum 1:3



# PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- So teach us to number our days so that we may present to you a heart of wisdom
  - Psalm 90





# NEVER STOP GROWING

- Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day. 2 Cor 4:16
- But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. Prov 4:18
- Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13
- If I knew I would die next week, would I stop reading my Bible?
  - Guy in memory care
  - Herb Banks



# AVOIDING HARDNESS OF HEART

- 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end**, while it is said,
- “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”  
Hebrews 3:12ff



# DEALING WITH FEAR

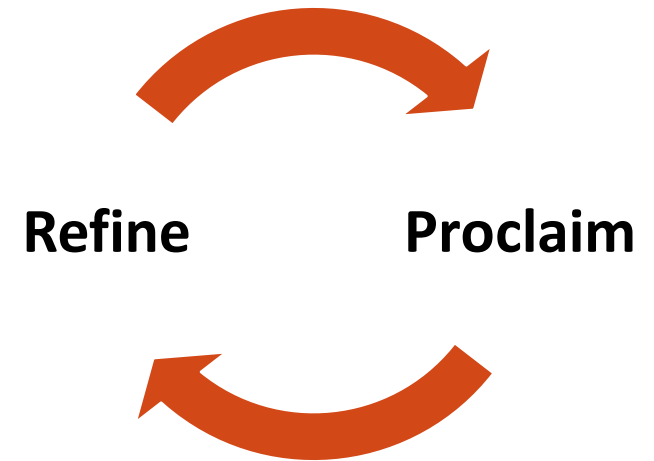
- “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34
- And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 2 Corinthians 12:9
- He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted....; Isaiah 40:29-31
- A lifetime of God’s faithfulness should enable us to press in harder / more deeply to trust in God





# HOW DO WE APPROACH LIFE'S FINAL TRIALS? ...THE SAME WAY AS BEFORE

- Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- v12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1



# THE CHALLENGE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Moses – did not enter the Promised Land
    - (But DID he?.... See Acts)
  - David – prepared, but did not see the Temple built
  - “And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.”  
Hebrews 11:39-40
- **Plan**
  - **Prepare**
  - **Pray**
  - **Trust**
    - **Ps 131:1**

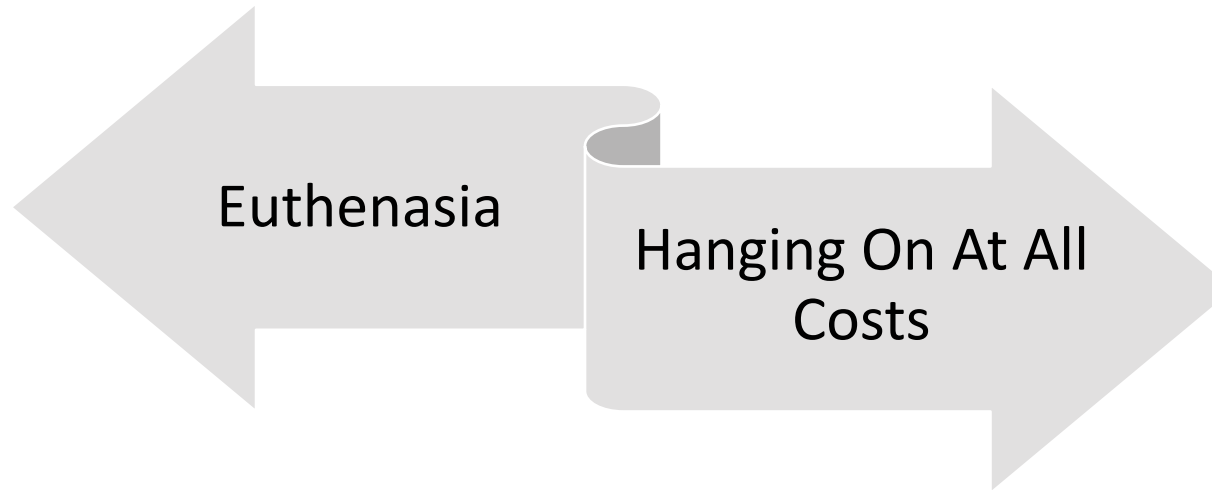


# HEALTH & ENERGY

- One of the biggies
- Fighting a losing battle
- Thoughts
  - Need help -> accept it
  - Don't make things difficult on your burden bearers
  - Get ahead of the curve
  - We cannot control
- God's grace is sufficient
  - And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 2 Corinthians 12:9



# BETWEEN TWO UNBIBLICAL EXTREMES



But when Jesus heard this, He said,  
“This sickness is not to end in death,  
but for the glory of God, so that the  
Son of God may be glorified by it.”

John 11:3-4

There is an appointed time for everything.  
And there is a time for every event under  
heaven— A time to give birth and a time to  
die;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2



# TRUE WIDOWS IN TRUE NEED

- 3 Honor widows who are actually widows; 4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to show proper respect for their own family and to give back compensation to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. 5 Now she who is actually a widow and has been left alone has set her hope on God, and she continues in requests and prayers night and day.....8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- 9 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the [b]saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.
- 11 But refuse to register younger widows, for ..... 14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, have children, manage their households,....
- 16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are actually widows. I Timothy 5:3-16



# FINANCIAL

- **Diversify –**

- Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth. Ecclesiastes 11:2

- **Matt 6 is still true**

- Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- **Trust vs. probate -> prepare early**

- The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it. Proverbs 22:3

- **Inheritance**

- Wind at their back / assistance?
- Tale of 3 generations – pickup, sedan, Mercedes



# THE INHERITANCE

## Basic Principle

- A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:22
  - How do you leave it to your grandchildren?
    - Creating it
    - Teaching your children to be responsible for it

## “On the other hand”

- Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil. Eccl 2:18-20



# DON'T BE LIKE THE GUY WHO BUILT BIGGER BARNs

- And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began thinking to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will store all my grain and my goods there. And I will say to myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years to come; relax, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is demanded of you; and as for all that you have prepared, who will own it now?’
- Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God. Luke 12:16-21





# CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP, & MINISTRY

- Church care for the elderly – YES, but ALSO
- The invisible army
  - Twice the time X half the energy = same result
- Jesus' -> people called at the last hour were just as valuable to getting the job done
- Acts -> serving the widows was the impetus for the deaconate



# WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

- So teach us to number our days so that we may present to you a heart of wisdom
- Seems crazy to talk about goals
  - Hang on to the end?
  - God's waiting room?
- Let's say you're in a mile race, and then walk the last lap
- We are here to prepare for THERE
- Does a sense of nearness to the end give us a greater sense of urgency about heavenly things?



# HAVE PAUL'S ATTITUDE

- For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake  
Philippians 1:21-24
- I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8



# EXAMPLES

## Finished Well

- Lady and man in the Temple
- Daniel
  - Age of when he made final prophecy
  - Comments from the angel
- Abraham & Sarah
- John on Patmos
- Paul
- Samuel – recounted God's glory in his old age

## Did Not Finish Well

- Eli
- Saul
- David
- Solomon
- Hezekiah



# DISCUSSION

- What should be the goals, hopes, desires of those in the “last lap” of life?
- What prevents us from thriving in the final years of life?
- What prevents us from being “full of sap and very green”?
- How can we better facilitate older men and women’s “special ministry” of Titus 2?
- Is euthanasia a real threat?
- What prevents us from being “full of sap and very green”?

