

**“GROWING OLD WITH GRACE”**



**INTRODUCTION:**

**There are several reasons people get sick:**

Base cause: Sin Curse of the Adamic Covenant

But specifically applied:

1. Sickness that is God's discipline for sin
2. Sickness to the glory of God
3. Sickness unto spiritual growth
4. Sickness to accomplish God's will
5. Sickness to bring a person to salvation
- \*6. Sickness unto death
  - (\*Me, at least)
    - >Grandchildren will never know me w/o Parkinson's
    - >Termination of Pastorate at Fellowship/events thereafter

**Look with me at Ecclesiastes from the viewpoint of illness and old age. (Ecclesiastes: Total Life by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.**

Ecc 1:1-2:26      Enjoying Life as a Gift from God

Ecc 3:1-5:20      Understanding God's All-Encompassing Plan

Ecc 6:1-8:15      Explaining and Applying the Plan of God

Ecc 8:16-12:14    Removing Discouragements and Applying  
God's Plan to the Lives of Believers

1. Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:9: The Remaining Mystery in this Subject Must Not Diminish Human Joy.
2. Ecclesiastes 9:10-11:6: The Remaining Mystery in This Subject Must Not Prevent Us from Working with All Our Might.
  - a. Work While it is Yet Day (9:10-12)
  - b. God-Given Wisdom is of the Utmost Importance in our Work (9:13-18).
  - c. Results of Foolish and Wise Works are Contrasted (10:1-20)
  - d. Active Involvement is Proper, Even When Success is Not Guaranteed in Every Case (11:1-6)

3. Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:18: The Daily Reminder of Our Imminent Death and the Prospect of Facing Our Creator and Judge Should Infect all Our God-Given Joy and Activity.
  - a. Enjoy the Present and Look Forward to the Future (11:7-10)
  - b. Remember to Live for Your Creator Before Death Overtakes You (12:1-7)
  - c. Conclusion (12:8-14)

**Application:**

1. Do not mistake \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of sin because you can't do everything you used to do, you want to do, or you think you should do.
  - a. The danger of listening to fired up preachers!
  - b. The art of transforming your energies!
  
2. In many cases you can \_\_\_\_\_ you can!
  - a. Perhaps physically:
  - b. Perhaps in terms of your contribution otherwise
  
3. Think \_\_\_\_\_! Consider \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Ec 11:2**—<sup>2</sup>Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.
  
4. Do not underestimate even the \_\_\_\_\_!  
**Mt 15:34**—<sup>34</sup>And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.  
**Lk 19:17**—<sup>17</sup>And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.
  
5. When the Bible directs His exhortation to the youthful, remember that \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_!  
**Ec 11:9**—<sup>9</sup>Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.
  
6. Always \_\_\_\_\_ to be better tomorrow, but \_\_\_\_\_ on being worse.

**Lk 14:28**—<sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

7. Always stay as \_\_\_\_\_ mentally, physically, emotionally, and purposively.

>Luke 2:25-37 Simeon and Anna

8. \_\_\_\_\_ !

9. Remember, there is great value in your just "\_\_\_\_\_."

**Pr 17:6**—<sup>6</sup>Children's children are the crown of old men; And the glory of children are their fathers.

**Pr 20:29**—<sup>29</sup>The glory of young men is their strength; And the beauty of old men is the gray head.

10. Accept help \_\_\_\_\_; give help \_\_\_\_\_: Be humble!

**Pr 29:23**—<sup>23</sup>A man's pride shall bring him low: But honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

**Col 3:12**—<sup>12</sup>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

**Jas 4:6**—<sup>6</sup>But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**1 Pe 5:6**—<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

**Php 2:8**—<sup>8</sup>And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

11. Have a grateful spirit.

**1 Th 5:18**—<sup>18</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

>Do not miss this: have a \_\_\_\_\_ of thankfulness.

12. You may be able to be a blessing \_\_\_\_\_ !

>Apostle Paul in Prison

**2 Ti 4:11**—<sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

13. Make your life as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as you can.

>Eccl. 11:9-10

**Pr 28:14**—<sup>14</sup>Happy is the man that feareth alway: But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

**Ro 12:12**—<sup>12</sup>Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

**Php 4:4**—<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

14. Be consciously aware of what the \_\_\_\_\_ holds in the \_\_\_\_\_.

>w/Lord, mansion, judgment seat...

**Tt 2:13**—<sup>13</sup>Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

15. Take comfort in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!

**Ro 8:28-29**—<sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

16. Keep your eyes on our \_\_\_\_\_ !

**1 Pe 1:3-4**—<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,