

# Growing Old with Grace

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## I. Thoughts about ‘*Growing Old with Grace*’

- A. Before the rumors start—No! I don’t have a girlfriend named Grace.
- B. Neither am I talking about growing old gracefully  
—That is: Keeping my charming personality—Instead of being a grumpy old man
- C. I’m talking about growing old:  
—Knowing that the same grace of God that gets me TO there  
—Is the grace of God that gets me THROUGH here

## II. My sad thoughts on Labor Day

- Our last day at the water park—The unofficial end of summer
- I thought about life: Spring (birth)—Summer (life)—Fall (dying)—Winter (dead)
- Being Labor Day: I pondered *the labour that I had laboured to do...all was vanity*
- I looked at the crowd—Kids—Young families—I was the oldest one there
- I remembered the old man at Panama City Beach—So many years ago
- I lay back—Gazed at the white clouds—The blue sky beyond—Heaven beyond
- I tried to convince myself of the truth of John Newton’s words:  
—*But when I am happy with Him, December’s as pleasant as May*

## III. The trouble with growing old

### A. It happens too quick

[Jas 4:14](#) ...what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

[Psa 90:9](#) ...we spend our years as a tale *that is told*.

[Psa 90:10](#) The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

[Job 14:1](#) Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Psa 39:4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is*; *that* I may know how frail I *am*.

Psa 39:5 Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

—A line from Paul Simon’s song “Old Men”—*‘How terribly strange to be seventy...’*

—A line from my dying friend: *“Some of the days are long—But life is still short.”*

### **B. It can be quite lonely**

Gen 23:2 And Sarah died...and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

Gen 23:3 And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake...saying,

Gen 23:4 I *am*...a sojourner...give me...a buryingplace...that I may bury my dead...

Rth 1:20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

Rth 1:21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty...

Psa 102:1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee...

Psa 102:4 My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.

Psa 102:5 By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.

Psa 102:6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

Psa 102:7 I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.

### **C. It’s really not much fun**

Gen 18:12 ...After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure...?

2Sa 19:34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

2Sa 19:35 I *am* this day fourscore years old: *and* can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

Gen 27:1 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am* I.

Gen 27:2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

Gen 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, *so that* he could not see. And he brought them (*grandsons*) near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

1Ki 1:1 Now king David was old *and* stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.

Ecc 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Ecc 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

Ecc 12:3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

Ecc 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

Ecc 12:5 Also *when* they shall be afraid of *that which is high*, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail...

#### **D. It's right before dying**

Ecc 12:5 ...because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecc 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all *is* vanity.

Gen 23:19 ...Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field...

Gen 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him (*Abraham*) in the cave...

Gen 49:29 And he (*Jacob*) charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave...

Gen 49:31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah...

Gen 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Gen 50:1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.

Gen 50:13 ...his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave...

#### **IV. To see Jesus when it comes time to die is to depart in peace**

Luk 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

Luk 2:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said unto him...To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Act 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me...

## V. The same grace that gets you TO there—Is the grace that gets us THROUGH here

### A. Grace is what gets you TO there

#### 1. According to grace—God planned to get you there

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace...

#### 2. According to grace—God paid to get you there

Eph 1:6 ...wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

#### 3. According to grace—God gives you life for there

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

### B. Grace is what gets you THROUGH here

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee...

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2Co 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

## IV. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home

Isa 46:3 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne *by me* from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

Isa 46:4 And *even* to *your* old age I *am* he; and *even* to hoar hairs will I carry *you*: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver *you*.

## VII. To know the grace of salvation that gets you TO there —Is to have the grace of hope that gets you THROUGH here

2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised...

**Tit 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**Rom 8:24** For we are saved by hope...

**1Th 4:13** ...ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.