

Eighteen Years to Live By Kent Heaton

The period of a man's life is summed up by our Creator as merely a vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes away (James 4:14). The greatest challenge we face is the reality of our mortality and the brevity of that transient journey called life. It is hard to conceive that life can be so short when all around us is full of life and vitality. Yet the numbering of our days is suggested by the psalmist Moses in his prayer to God. "For all our days have declined 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 but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away. 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).

Moses does not suggest that all men will live to be seventy but the fullness of life is measured by a span of time for man but only a glimpse of eternity from the view of Heaven. He lived to be 120 years of age and "his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated" (Deut. 34:7). Our lives are nothing more than a sigh and soon passed away. The lesson is for all of us to number our days and receive wisdom from our mortality.

Viewing this passage from my own life I realize that Lord willing I have a span of eighteen years and if by strength twenty eight years. Added to this knowledge is the clear reality that my death can come today - at any moment. The lesson from Moses is not about the numbers but about the numbering. Wisdom helps us see through the eye of faith that life for the child of God must be viewed in light of eternity. Our lives are not measured by the marching of time but the time we march into that great city, the holy Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10-27).

Facing death is what we all share and our understanding of that determines our outlook of life. Some are fully aware of their death as disease has crippled them and left little time for their lives to continue. I cannot grasp the measure of faith that men like Phil Roberts had in facing death or of the faith of Gary Ogden who now faces his mortality. Countless children of God have stood at the door of death and viewed it not with fear but with the longing faith of one who wants to go home to the Father.

Luke describes the death of Stephen as "falling asleep" (Acts 7:60) and Stephen was being murdered by a mob stoning him with stones. The horrible nature of death confuses our minds with the reality of death for the Christian. When Stephen was dying it was a terrible way to die; but he knew that in a moment of time his pain would cease and his life would be transformed from the earthly house to a "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2Cor. 5:1-9).

Teach us to number our days and know the power of God that rests upon our lives now and especially the power of God that awaits us to carry us by angels to the bosom of Abraham (Luke 16:22). "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true'" (Rev. 21:4-5). May God grant us the eye of faith to see clearly the eternal home promised before time began (Titus 1:2; Heb. 11:16).

Tomorrow

He was going to be all he wanted to be tomorrow
No one would be kinder than he tomorrow
A friend who was troubled and weary he knew
Who'd be glad of a lift, and he needed it too.
On him he would call and see what he could do, Tomorrow
Each morning he'd stack all the letters he'd write, Tomorrow
And thought of the folks he'd fill with delight, Tomorrow
It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today,
And he hadn't a minute to stop on his way;
"More time I will have to give others," he'd say, Tomorrow
The greatest of workers this man would have been, Tomorrow;
The world would have known him had he ever seen, Tomorrow.
But, in fact he passed on, and he faded from view,
And all that he left here when living was through
Was a mountain of things he'd intended to do, Tomorrow
Via The Bulletin edited by J. Clyde Strickland, Savanna, OK

New Testament Persons Who Believed In Creation

JESUS: "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'" (Mark 10:6)

EARLY CHRISTIANS: "So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them..." (Acts 4:24)

PAUL & BARNABAS: "We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them..." (Acts 14:15)

JOHN: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (John 1:1-3)

PETER: "...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water..." (2 Peter 3:3-5)

MEN & WOMEN OF FAITH: "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:3)

HEAVENLY BEINGS: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

A Moments Wisdom

Train up a child in the way he should go and then go that way yourself.
The reason worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.
A house without books is like a house without windows.