

The Times of Our Life

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Introduction: We will face very different times during the course of our life.

A. If we build on a solid foundation then we will be able to stand whatever may come. **(Psa 27:4-7)**

1. Changes will come in our lives in many ways.
2. Some changes will be a result of circumstances (death, divorce, sickness) while others are a matter of age and maturity.
3. We do not tend to manage change well! Why did Israel want to return to slavery? **(Num 11:4-6)**

B. As we get older there will be great changes that we must adjust to.

1. I am amused by the small changes I see in myself concerning tastes.
2. When real changes come we need the wisdom to understand ourselves and the new opportunities and temptations these changes bring.

(Prov 2:1-9)

3. Consider these four times of change.

I. The Teenage Years

A. God wants you to enjoy life in your youth. **(Ecc 11:9-10)**

1. Youth is generally a time of less physical encumbrances. There is no house payments or a family to feed.
2. This is a time of great pressure to follow others. Here is where wisdom will give you strength to break away from the crowd.
3. Please have the wisdom to listen and stand upon God's word. **(Prov 1:1-9)**

B. Beware of the "Invincibility Syndrome."

1. How many young people have thought, "I'll never get pregnant," or "I'll never get AIDS," or "I can drink and drive!"
2. Often there is carelessness about sin and its consequences too. As we see, the greater consequences of sin will occur later! **(Gal 6:6-7)**

C. Beware of putting off the hard decisions.

1. Some think that since their whole life is ahead that they will have plenty of time for the hard decisions.
2. In this mindset you emphasize the short term things that satisfy (Cars, dates, sports, college..) and ignore eternal things.
3. Satan wants to teach you the lie that life cannot be fulfilling while serving God in your youth. **(1 Tim 4:12-16)**

4. The priorities you set in youth will often follow you all your life.

(Ex. Kenneth Reed's advice to students) **(Ecc 12:13-14)**

II. The Building of a Home

A. One of the great challenges of this time is the need to learn to be thoughtful of others.

1. In marriage this is essential! **(Mt 19:6; 1 Pt 3:7)**
2. When children come there must be an even greater awareness.
3. If we have lived a selfish life then this will come with great stress and difficulty.

B. The great temptation will often be in the area of how we manage our time and

money. (**1 Tim 6:6-11**)

1. The pressures of trying to finish college, working two jobs, and trying to have furnish a home can be stressful.
2. We can set our minds on the wrong things in order to achieve "success."
(**Col 3:1-4**)
3. When children appear the time demands can seem unmanageable. Sadly children are often shortchanged because of decisions we have made.
4. Please do not say that changes will be made when things slow down a bit!
5. Jesus tells us what is really important. (**Lk 12:15**)
6. We can get caught up in things that will amount to a "striving after the wind." (**Ecc 1:17; Lk 12:17-21**) (Ex. Boxing the wind)

III. Learning to Grow Older

- A. Some have trouble when the signs of aging appear.
 1. Men are trouble by the loss of physical ability while the woman may look to "what might have been."
 2. In both cases there is often depression, stress, a loss of confidence and a seeking for new friends and a new life.
 3. There are some real dangers here.
- B. Here is where we need to have a solid foundation concerning our goals.
 1. Why are you here? (**Phil 3:12-14**)
 2. If Christ is first then how should you view your job? Your body? Your marriage? Your things? Your brothers in Christ? Yourself?
 3. Our joy should be found in being with Christ forever rather than the things that Jesus has already told us would decay! (**Mt 6:19-21**)
 4. Some of us have been building towards the wrong goal for some time only to have stressful events reveal our hearts.

IV. The Golden Years

- A. Some may look at this time and think, "I have it made."
 - 1.1 have seen many in these years throw it all away!
 - 2.1 also have seen others who have put away their influence.
 3. There are many I know who did their most powerful work for God at these times.
- B. Beware of overconfidence and impatience.
 1. You can limit your studies to the same material and cover the same ground. Worse yet you can become dogmatic and refuse to listen.
 2. There is also a danger of self-righteousness that will cause you to despise others. (**Lk 18:9**)
- C. Beware of the feeling of worthlessness.
 1. Shocking to see the suicide rate among elderly has surpassed teenagers.
 2. You need to remember that you are valuable to God! If you have been forgiven then you have an infinite value. (**2 Pt 1:9-10**)
 3. Older Christians have so much to offer. (**1 Kgs 12:6-7; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pt 5:3-5**)
 4. I can remember many in their later years who encouraged me greatly.

Conclusion: We cannot live any phase of our life without God!