

Never Grow Old

NO, THE ABOVE TITLE IS NOT A WORD OF ADVICE, it is a call to recognize an important truth found in God's Word. However, I did begin thinking along these lines by observing older people. This past week I spent some time at a facility for the aged. As I observed the residents there, I realized that they were just like me — they have the same needs, many of the same desires, and the same fears. One day, I may very well join them in needing a place to stay and a staff to take care of the many needs I now take for granted. I hope I find mercy if/when that time comes.

There is a great message of hope that needs to be proclaimed in regard to growing old, namely, that there is the opportunity to eliminate the process. No, I am not suggesting that we can avoid the aging process in regard to our physical mind and body — that is inevitable. By observation we realize that only those who happen to die young avoid growing old. From the moment we are born we begin aging and there is no way to stop the process. We can't even slow the process (even though people are spending countless hours exercising and millions of dollars on creams, pills, and surgeries). **BUT, THERE IS A MESSAGE THAT NEVER GROWS OLD, AND IT TELLS OF HOPE FOR A FUTURE EXISTENCE WHERE WE LIKEWISE WILL NEVER GROW OLD.**

A TIMELESS MESSAGE FROM A TIMELESS AUTHOR

When Jesus began His ministry He declared, "...*Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled*" (Matt. 5:18). David had said in the Psalms, "*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven*" (Ps. 119:89). There are two things to note; (1) When God speaks, what He says will come to fruition and (2) though the earth that God created will come to an end, the word that He speaks will endure beyond this world's destruction.

God's word is just a reflection of Himself. Like His word, God will never pass away. The Hebrew writer said, "*You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail*" (Heb. 1:10-12). The Author of the message that will never pass away is Himself One that will never grow old. This is hard for us as mortals to comprehend. We know that even those things that we take great care to preserve eventually fade, break, rot, crumble, and die. Not so with God nor His word — they will never fail!

HEAVEN: A TIMELESS TREASURE

The great message contained in the Bible is that God has prepared a place for the righteous that will never grow old. He did this before He even created the world (Matt. 25:34) and the place He prepared will continue even after He destroys this world (cf. Isa. 51:6).

One of the aspects of this life that is so frustrating is that, as they say, "all good things must come to an end." For example, we all enjoy going on vacation, but we already have the date and time marked that we must pack up our things and head back home. Once we return, we know that, come Monday morning, its back to work, school, cooking, cleaning, and the old routine — vacation is over. I have always felt a little sad after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays because I know this special time of being together with family and friends has passed and it will not come again until next year (that is, if I am still here next year).

This is one reason heaven appeals to us. It is the place where God dwells and His glory is seen openly. It is the place where I will meet my Savior. It is the abode of all the saved who have gone before. And heaven, with all its glories, will never end. Not only will this place of glory continue eternally, I in my new heavenly body, will never grow old (1 Cor. 15:35-57). An eternal body in an eternal place, this is God's timeless treasure and it is revealed in His enduring message of hope.

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*

(Luke 12:32-34)

-John