



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24

NOVEMBER 12, 2006

It's Terrible to Grow Old

by Gene Taylor

Did the title of this page get your attention? I hope so. That is why I put it there. I want everyone, especially the young, to read this article because the sentiment expressed above is what our society in general thinks. You don't think that is the case? Ask Don Shula.

The winningest coach is NFL history "retired" the day after his 66th birthday. Yes, he was given the option to retire rather than being fired so he could at least maintain some sense of dignity. After devoting most of his life to football, because he was aging, it was said of him

"the game had passed him by" and "we need an infusion of youth into this organization." He is not the first one to be adversely affected by aging. I doubt he will be the last.

One of the greatest horrors in our society is to grow old. In our youth-oriented culture it is embarrassing, if not downright shameful, to be old. Such an emphasis on youth causes people to spend millions of dollars to retain their youthful appearance and to buy into such philosophies as "You're only as old as you feel," hoping that others will think they are young. Corporations, with no compassion for the individual, no sense of loyalty for years of dedicated service, and no appreciation for experience, permanently lay off older workers and replace them with younger ones who will cost them a lot less.

I am saddened when I see this attitude in the world. I am horrified when I see it in the church in some places. Sometimes, instead of being utilized for their knowledge and experience, those who are older are looked upon as being out of date and not useful to the Lord's work. Sometimes preachers, as they age, find it difficult to locate with a congregation because the people want someone who "can relate to the young people."

How different this attitude is from what God would have it to be. *Psalm 92:12-15* states, "*The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of Jehovah; They shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and green: To show that Jehovah is*

upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

God, in His wisdom, knew that age was necessary to be that full, mature individual who could properly serve as an overseer in the local church. *1 Timothy 3:6* states that one who would serve in that capacity must be "*not a novice.*" *Titus 1:6* says he must be old enough to have "*believing children.*" Also, one designation of his office is "*elder*" (*Phil. 1:1*), implying age. God has also seen the usefulness of "*older women*" -- they are to instruct the younger women (*Titus 2:3-5*).

The Lord realized that age was needed for one to be wise enough to effectively lead His people. Wisdom, based on knowledge and experience, is a vital asset for good leadership. While those who are young may possess great knowledge, they do not have sufficient experience to make them wise.

One of the greatest resources our country and the church have is older people. They are useful and necessary and ought to be appreciated. May we always show them proper respect. May we utilize them for their wisdom. And may they have the same sentiment expressed by the Psalmist in *Psalm 71:18*: "*Yea, even when I am old and gray headed, O God, forsake me not, Until I have declared thy strength unto the next generation, Thy might to every one that is to come.*"

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**Oak Grove
Church of Christ**

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut

Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

Who Are The Saints?

The gospel of Jesus Christ was widely spread after the death of the martyr, Stephen, because of the persecution of the church (*Acts 7:57-8:1*). The apostle Peter, shortly there after, *went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda (Acts 9:32)*. Paul addressed many of his letters **“To the saints,”** that lived and worshiped there in Ephesus, Philippi and Colosse (*Eph. 1:1, Phlp 1:1 & Col. 1:2*). We are also told by scripture that the churches in Macedonia, Achaia and Corinth sent relief to the saints that lived in Jerusalem (*Rom. 15:25-31 & 1 Cor. 16:1-3*).

The question posed is this, who were these saints that are spoken of over and over again in the Bible. Were they individuals who had been officially recognized through canonization by some religious hierarchy? Did they have to perform some miracle and than wait until their death to enter into sainthood? If that were the case then the apostles Peter and Paul were communing with the dead and the relief sent to those saints in Jerusalem would have been a little too late.

The term saint designates one who is a believer and in *Jude 14* the word is translated “holy ones” in the American Standard Version of the Bible.

Any person who has been added to the kingdom by the obedient act of baptism (*Acts 2:38-47*) is called a saint of God (*Colossians 1:26*). The term saint is applied

to Christians in three senses in the New Testament.

1. As members of a visible and local community (*Acts 9:32 & 41*).
2. As members of a spiritual community (*1 Corinthians 1:2 & 2 Corinthians 13:13*).
3. As individually holy (*Eph. 1:18 & Jude 3*).

- Bruce J. Dehut

KNOWING OUR NEED FOR TRUST

Besides being clear about what we know, we also need to be clear about what we don't know. As we do that, we have an opportunity to help people grow in their faith, because faith, classically defined, is a combination of knowledge and trust. So faith contains an element of trusting that God is faithful in what we don't know. As we come into a greater sense of what we don't know, our appreciation of how awesome God is increases, because we have to trust.

Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

The Creed of a Dynamic Leader

My calling is clear, my mission is mandated and my guide is God. My face is fixed on the

goal and I WON'T QUIT. I will not be delayed, deluded, detoured compromised nor marginalized. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, nor meander in the maze of mediocrity. I WON'T QUIT.

I won't give up, shut up or let up, until I've stayed up, prayed up, paid up, and spoken up for my Savior. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and I must go on till He comes. I will give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He calls me home.

Even when hit by disease and disaster I will not quit, because God my Father designed me, Jesus my Savior died for me and the Holy Spirit guides me into God's eternal purposes. My family, friends and associates are counting on me to finish life well. THEREFORE I WILL NOT QUIT."

- Eugene P. Harder

Matt. 24:13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Tim. 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Chuck Sharp**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner
Jr. Stout
Chris Runner
Jr. Alford**

Scripture Reading: **Mark Sharp**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Doug Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**

Closing Prayer: **Randall Hood**