

“GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY”

Joshua 14:6-14

INTRODUCTION

(1)The Devil has no happy old people. They may have a daily “happy hour” or a fun-filled night out on the town now and then. However, the unbelieving senior sinner citizen, facing death, is guilt-ridden, remorseful and regretful. When faced with the fact that there is a judgment to come, they are filled with fear and dread. That is indeed sad.

It is expected that sinners may grow old disgracefully, but some of the Lord’s older people are not facing life and death very gracefully either. Are there any biblical models of senior saints who grew old gracefully? Yes, the Bible contains many biographies of such. Among them is the example of an octogenarian, Caleb. He teaches us, among other things, that to grow old gracefully is to:

I. KEEP GROWING PHYSICALLY.

“And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. “As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.” (Joshua 14:10-11)

II. KEEP GROWING MENTALLY.

“Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.” (14:12)

III. KEEP GROWING SPIRITUALLY.

“I wholly followed the Lord.” (14:8)

CONCLUSION

Caleb kept himself physically active, mentally alert and spiritually alive. Caleb was a brave man among cowards, a believing man among skeptics, a visionary among pragmatists, a positive among negatives. His favorite gospel song would have been:

*“I’m pressing on the upward way,
New heights I’m gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”*