

**YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD**  
**Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17; 18:10-14**

**HOW OLD IS OLD?**

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him ... "As for Sarai your wife ... I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her" ... (Abraham said), "Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" (Genesis 17:1, 15-17)*

Living Longer:

Old used to be defined as over 60, now 32% say that "old" is over 70. Peter Drucker pointed out that it is unprecedented in history that older people will out number younger people.

Children born in the 1990s may see a third of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century.

To Name a Few:

Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater at 69 ... Cecil B. DeMille directed *The Ten Commandments* at 75 ... Claude Monet created the last of his water lily paintings in his 85<sup>th</sup> year.

**DO YOU KNOW THE STORY?**

*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. (Hebrews 11:8)*

Life Is An Adventure!

When are we going to get there?

From the moment we are born to the moment we die, life is not a destination to be arrived at, but a journey to enjoy, share, and explore.

Life Is Constantly Changing!

Abraham says that Sarah is his sister.

Abraham and his in-laws have a dispute over property.

Sarah is not able to have children.

**LOOKING FORWARD IN FAITH**

*So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure ... Shall I indeed bear a child? ... Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:12-14)*

"People are prepared for the worst but rarely for the best, prepared for the possible but rarely for the impossible." (Buechner)

"When we walk to the edge of all the light we have, and take that step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen – there will be something solid for us to stand on, or we shall be taught to fly!" (Thomas Overton)

**Prayer Concerns:** *Burney Biesel, Deborah Hendrix, Mac Kerr, Ricky Kirby, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Rachel Parker, Katherine Pickens, Mildred Sentell, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Ray Billings, Cledus Creel, Betty Crenshaw, Jimmy Eubanks, Ed Gatlin, Martha Gibbs, Nancy Godsey, Kristi Jackson, Jeff Joyner, Ava Grace Keleher, Joyce Kuhl, Robert Lee, Judy Malaquias, Catherine Mattheus, Margaret Moore, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, Florine Rickeman, Mary Elizabeth Roberts ...*

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to *Marilyn Clifton and family* in the death of her sister, *Rachel Cobb*, who died on Saturday, March 4.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Have we not known, O God? Have we not heard? Has it not been told to us from the beginning that you are our God, and you are powerful. Have we not seen your mighty hand at work in our world and in our lives? And yet, we need to hear it again. We need to see it again, for we are a forgetful people.

Today we remember how you spoke a word about the future to a family without any hope of a future. We remember how you spoke in a situation of barrenness and promised new life to a ninety year old woman and a man who was ninety-nine. Could you be speaking that word to us today? Could you be speaking it to a couple whose marriage is barren, with little hope for a future, or to a person struggling with an addiction which is trying to rob them of a future, or to a parent who can see no future for a child moving in the wrong direction?

Lord, turn our tears to laughter, our sighing into singing, and make us smile at the triumph of your will for the world. Give us grace not to take our dead ends, our failures, and our tragedies as final. Give us the gift of faith to see beyond the present to the future you have prepared for us. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **GENESIS 17:1-8, 15-17; 18:10-14**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

The Lord said, "I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him ... So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure? ... Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

### **ONE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY**

We will just have one worship service **at 10:40 a.m. next Sunday**, March 19. Pastor Blakeburn will be on the Youth Choir Tour and *Dr. J. Earheart-Brown*, President of Memphis Theological Seminary, will preach in his absence. Dr. Earheart-Brown will also be in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday school to speak about our seminary.

Prior to becoming president of our denominations only graduate school of theology, "Jay" was Associate Professor of Theology at MTS. He holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.