

The Middle Years: Growing Complexity / Great Value
The Seasons of Life Pt 3
Bud Wrenn 3/25/07

Matthew 10:38-39 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it.

The 40s: "Life is Complex!"

Settling

1 Cor. 7:17 But in any case each one of you should continue to live the way God has given you to live—the way you were when God called you.

I have "arrived", but where?

I can no longer pass off failures and flaws as youthfulness and inexperience.

Do I have financial security? Am I headed that way?

Competitive Spirit

1 Cor. 9:24 (NLT) Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.

Why do some people seem to be doing better than I?

Will I continue to fight to achieve lifelong goals or settle into complacency?

Why do I face so many uncertainties?

Halftime

Psalm 39:4 "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away.

How can I make a greater contribution in the second half of life?

What would it take to do something that I always wanted to do?

The 50s: "So I still have value? Where is it?"

Mortality

Eccles. 3:11 God has made everything beautiful ... He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

How many years do I have left?

Have I really crossed "Life's middle"?

Why is my body becoming so unreliable?

Usefulness

1 Cor. 9:26 I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches.

How do I deal with failures and successes?

How can we reinvigorate our marital relationship without the children around?

Who are these young people who want to replace me?

Do I respond with resistance or do I help them along?

Sufficiency

Eccles. 7:14 Enjoy prosperity while you can. But when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. That way you will realize that nothing is certain in this life.

What do I do with these doubts and fears?

Will I have enough money for retirement years?

Will there be economic downturns that will eat into what security I have?

What about failing health?