WE WILL NOT WASTE AWAY

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thess 4:15-18 (KJV)

 There are several things that I cannot do that I was able to do in my younger days. I could leap over a fence, if it was a short fence. I jumped off the side of trucks and it didn’t hurt. Crawling under cars and relatively small crawl spaces was not a problem. One of my jobs on aircraft was to slide in tanks and rivet parts together. Sometimes I would do repairs on top of the aircraft wings or fuselage. Well, those days are over. To be honest, I try not to think about it much because it makes me sad. I get the feeling that I’m wasting away.

 Geoffrey Rush put it this way, “nobody ever said growing old would be easy. Just having to hold the newspaper out in your forties and then hair growing out of unusual places in your fifties is tough on the ego.” Amen to that! You go to the doctor and he or she starts a sentence “at your age.” Go to the dermatologist and they diagnose those things you think may be cancers on your skin as age spots. By the way, they are not beauty marks.

 No wonder the Lord tells us to remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Remember your Creator while you can still get on your knees; remember your Creator while you can still serve him with a lot of energy; with good eyesight; with good hearing; with good memory; with good physical skills. We know the day is coming, if it is not already arrived, when our youthfulness will be gone. The day will come when our last deed will be done; our last word spoken; our last prayer prayed; yea even our last breath breathed. We will be laid in the grave to waste away.

 But, we will not waste away. Our body may go back to the dust from which it came but our spirit will return to the Lord who gave it. God told Adam “For dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.” Paul explains to us in Second Corinthians chapter Five that to be absent from the body, for the Christian, is to be present with the Lord. So, you see, we will not waste away!

We have God’s Word on it! “For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord.”

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram