

2020

Pandemic and Pandemonium

From Grandpa With Love

A Personal Note

January, 2020

A few weeks before the Virus Pandemic, I awoke during a strange dream. I was watching myself standing alone on a street scene with buildings all around. But there was no life. The quiet was eerie. I was bewildered, and said out loud, “*The World has stopped!*” Then I asked quizzically, “*But how are we going to get it started again?*” As I began waking up the whole scene was repeated.

I thought about the possible meaning of the dream. Maybe, I thought, I am going to die soon and that is what it will be like. When I leave maybe it seems the world stopped, when actually I was the one who was gone. I mentioned the dream casually to a few folks including one of my daughters. Then I forgot about it.

A few weeks later the Pandemic Virus began its march around the World. The streets were quiet in nations everywhere. *The World Stopped!* People were (and many still are) huddled alone or in small groups waiting for a solution. And we are all asking ourselves, and one another, “*How Are We Going to Get It Started Again?*”

This may be one of the most important questions we ask in our lifetimes.

During the weeks and months that followed, God laid on my heart a series of thoughts that I felt were to be shared. Some were new and some were from previous writings, but they all seemed right for these times so I began distributing them. Now, as I look back on 2020, it seems time to consolidate some of them in one volume. Perhaps it will be a record we can reflect on as we move through the Great Virus Covid Pandemic of 2020 and beyond.

I pray they are helpful. But remember, as always, they are just one man’s observations, so hold onto what is good (of God)—and discard the rest.

From Grandpa With Love

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The World Has Changed

March, 2020

Several days ago I told someone the corona virus pandemic is the first disaster to hit world-wide since WWII, so I believe it will be much larger and more profound than we expect. He responded, “*What did you learn that might be helpful?*” I have thought (and prayed) a lot about his question. Here are some of my conclusions as I look back at December 7, 1941 and the years that followed:

1. **Accept it!** The world has changed and it will never be the same again.
2. **Let Go!** Look forward and don’t try and hang on to the old normal.
3. **Expect Uncertainty!** It is like WWII when we didn’t know when (or even if) we would win.
4. **Think Long Term!** This may go on for years before it settles down.
5. **Live Lean!** Prepare to do without and substitute, but build margins of the essentials.
6. **Love and Be Loved!** Relationships with God and People will become increasingly important.
7. **Trust God!** Stop worrying and apply His Word e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.

Remember, these are just one old man’s thoughts from my unique view. Many will disagree and I may be wrong, so get all the Godly counsel you can. Then, as usual, hold onto what is good (of God)—and discard the rest.

From Grandpa With Love

Be Ready

April, 2020

“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

(Matthew 24:42)

We are living in a time of Crisis. Some may even begin to ask, “*Could this be the beginning of the “end time” crisis discussed by Jesus as He approached the Cross?*” In Matthew 24:1-44, Jesus warns His followers He is “*coming*” and urges them to “*watch*” for the “*signs*” of His return and “*be ready*”. He then concludes (Matthew 24:45 through 26: 16) with a series of parables that sound like financial case studies.

As I read and studied these parables over the years I have asked myself, “*Why would His instruction, ‘be ready’, center on money and the things of this world—when we are preparing to leave for Eternity where they will not matter?*” My answer finally came as I pondered our current Corona Virus Crisis:

***“Being ready for the “end time”
is part of the Kingdom of God road that leads to Eternal Life;
And it also helps us “be ready”
for the difficulties that come in every generation!”***

Set forth below is a summary of this Kingdom way of life:

Seven Financial Case Studies

Matthew 24-26

Storms

Watch for Warnings—and “*Be Ready*”.

Stewards

Keep Watch—Be Faithful with what God entrusts to us.

Margin

Ten Virgins – Save and be ready when resources are needed.

Investing

Three Stewards—Invest money wisely so it increases.

Helping

The Sheep and the Goats—Help those in need.

Beauty

Expensive Perfume on Jesus’ head—Give something “*Beautiful for God*”.

Betrayal

Judas—Don’t betray God for Money.

*When “wars and rumors of war” come in our lives,
whether they be military, economic, disease
or other unexpected crises,*

I pray we will study and apply these Eternal Truths.

From Grandpa With Love

Peter and John

April, 2020

I believe God has made each of us uniquely qualified to carry out the assignments He gives us. And He also gives us exactly what we need to get it done. But He doesn't make us whole. Rather we are each an arm, or an ear, or an eye. He made me perfect for what He had for me to be and do—and He does the same for every other believer. For it is only when we each play our part that His Work gets done. And what I call My Work is really only a small part of His Work.

I believe that is what He did with Peter and John in the Bible. For me, these two have been working models of two basic strains of believers. We have different titles for them in different areas of life:

- In the Air Force we were classified as Pilots and Navigators.
- In Business we called them Executives and Staff.
- In the Bible they were described as Kings and Counselors.
- In Government, the *Peters* can be seen in the Executive Branch while the *John's* are prevalent in the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

When I compare them side by side, here are some of the gifts that complement one another:

John

Navigator
Analyze
Microscope
Avoid Loss
Cautious
Advise
Counsel
Sensitive
Record Life
Write

Peter

Pilot
Act
Telescope
Maximize Gain
Takes Chances
Decide
Rule
Tough
Live Life
Speak

As I studied the lives of Peter and John, I was fascinated by the patterns of their lives. Both so important, but so violently different! Here are some of those comparisons:

- Both ran to the tomb; but John hesitated at the door and looked in, while Peter charged right on by John into the tomb.
- John was first to see Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; but Peter jumped out of the boat into the water and swam to Jesus.
- John wrote the lengthy Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Revelation. Peter wrote only the two small books of 1st and 2nd Peter.
- John (and the other Disciples) remained in the boat; but Peter stepped out onto the water to walk to Jesus.
- Peter is believed to have been crucified early in life, while John wrote Revelation in his nineties.

Interestingly, as I surveyed the workplace, I found most serious Pilots I knew in Business were also Executives. I was a Navigator in the Air Force and a Legal Counselor to many Executives. I did fly a little in civilian life, but it never seemed to fit. I realized I could fly an airplane, but I will never be a Pilot. One of my longtime Executive clients brought it all into focus, when he told me, *“Don’t try and keep me out of trouble. Just get me out when I get in!”*

I believe we mature as we go through the different chapters of life, but I have concluded “Peters and Johns” have underlying persona that never changes. Looking back, I believe the Air Force gave me a great gift when they told me I was a Navigator. I decided it was important for each of us to determine as early in life as possible:

“Am I more like Peter or John?”

From Grandpa With Love

The Only Time I Have to Live is NOW!

April, 2020

A few nights ago God awoke me about 4:00 a.m. telling me, “*The only time I have to live is NOW*”. After wrestling with Him awhile, I gave up and jotted down these thoughts, (with a few additions as I reread it).

The Past is full of memories that guide and instruct me. The Future is full of hopes that encourage me. *But the only time I have to live is NOW!*

When I was young I dreamed of the mountains we would climb, the world we would explore and the people we would know. Today, in this old age of life, I look back and reminisce with old friends. *But the only time I have to live is NOW!*

How tempting it is in Generation I, Age 0-25, to daydream of the girl I will someday marry, the work I will do and the people I will know. And to experience the Pleasures of youth!

In Generation II, Age 25-50, I may look back and realize I am not where I thought I would be. So I work all the harder before it is too late. I strive for Possessions that will prove I have achieved Success that will give me and my family the Security we all want so badly.

By Generation III, Age 50-75, Time is running out. The kids leave home. We are no longer on the cutting edge of life. Our Children are in the center and Grandchildren will soon take their place.

But now I am in Generation IV, rapidly approaching Age 95. The Life Expectancy tables say I have only a short time left. Others caution me not to buy Green Bananas. ***But they are wrong. I now have exactly the same amount of time I had at age three or thirty or sixty. I have This Moment! This Hour! This Day! I Have NOW!***

The Past is gone. The Future in this world may go on without me—but I am Content! I finally see why God doesn’t say, “*I was or I will*

be”, but simply, **“I AM”!** Why Jesus, who holds all of Time and Eternity in His Hands, told us not to worry about Tomorrow. Why Old Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes. And why it makes sense to leave the Pleasures of Youth, the Possessions of Middle Years, and the Positions of Later Years when they are over. ***They were necessary in their time, to carry on Family for future generations and to keep the world alive. To motivate us to Prepare, Build and then Pass It On to those who would follow—But, then, “Let Go”!***

Now I see the wisdom of going from *My Way to God’s Way* when I committed my life to Jesus at age 44. Now I see why God gave me my assignment at age 64 to concentrate my life and energies *Loving People and Loving Him*. And at Age 94 I accept the reality that this is not the Land of Life moving to Death, but, rather, it is the Land of Death moving to Eternal Life.

And I know that Eternity is One Great Big NOW. When Moses and Jesus and all my loved ones moved into Eternity it was NOW for them. When I meet them in Eternity it will still be NOW!

In this small little bubble we call Time and Space, we live so narrowly. But in fact we are simply waiting to go into an Infinite, Invisible, Eternity—***and it will still be NOW!***

So I will not worry or think too much about tomorrow. I will remember *“One day’s trouble is enough for one day”*. I will *“Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness”*, because that is what the One who created this World and all of us, has destined and set in motion for those who love Him and want to follow Him.

***I will remember the only Time I have to live in this World—
and all Eternity—is NOW!***

***And I pray each of you will live to the fullest the role God gives you
for each chapter of your life, because***

The Only Time We All Have to Live is NOW!

From Grandpa With Love7

Please Don't Stop Me From Living, To Keep Me Alive!

April, 2020

The Government sent all of us home a few weeks ago, to stop the Virus Pandemic. They were reacting in the best way the experts knew to deal with a frightening new threat to our world. New statistics now reveal it might have been more efficient to allow more freedom to the general population and isolate only those of us who are elderly or otherwise at risk.

My plea, as a 94 year old senior is,

“Please Don't Stop Me From Living, To Keep Me Alive!”

There is a risk in living. In fact, I can't really live without risk. Knowing when to risk and when to refrain is a big part of life. That is part of the blessing and the curse of a free society

When I was a young boy, my parents allowed me to take a risk and go to a YMCA camp where we swam in the river. One Sunday afternoon a group of us were carried downstream by the current. One little boy drowned and several of us had narrow escapes. My folks never stopped me from going to other camps and it was a big part of living my young life.

At age 18, I volunteered for flight training in the old Army Air Corps. I left for overseas at age 19 to fly bombing missions in WWII. We were receiving 50% hazard pay for flight duty, and my brother had just been killed in a B-24 Bomber over England. I returned safely and it was one of the most momentous episodes in my life. Similar experiences matured a whole generation of young people, who are now called “The Greatest Generation”.

I married and we spent the next 61 years raising a family which now spans four generations. Every step along the way was a risk. I

practiced law over forty years, and every case was a risk. In the last 75 years I traveled hundreds of thousands of miles by auto, rail and air. Every time I left I was taking a risk.

But as I look back I wouldn't want to have missed any of it. Sure, I made mistakes and wish I could have done a better job, but isn't that what life is all about?

When I am helpless and can no longer make my own decisions and take risks, I will no longer really be living. I will simply be waiting patiently to die. Then help me as I leave.

But for now, I have my affairs in order. My work is largely done. I have prepared my final papers including a Do Not Resuscitate Order. When I was younger I was largely motivated by the *Three P's*: *Pleasure*, particularly when I was young; *Possessions*, in my productive years; and *Position*, as I sought to pass on to posterity when I grew older. But now I *am* old! Now I am principally motivated by *Relationships*. With God and other loved ones. As an old friend said when he reached Age 90, "*All that is really important is loving and being loved!*"

Of course I need time alone. But life without other people is not life! It is simply existing waiting to die. And, as another friend in the last stages of cancer, told me "*I don't mind dying. It's getting there I don't like!*"

I died to this World and became a citizen of the Kingdom of God when I surrendered my Will and accepted Jesus as Divine 50 years ago. I do not fear going to sleep and awakening in Heaven!

In the meantime,

"Please Don't Stop Me From Living, To Keep Me Alive!"

See You in Heaven!

From Grandpa With Love

Quo Vadis?

“Where Do We Go From Here?”

May, 2020

*“There is a time for everything...
a time to be born and a time to die...
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them...
He has made everything beautiful in its time...”*
(Ecclesiastes 3:1a-2, 5, 11a)

Several weeks ago the world stopped. Governments ordered their citizens to stop meeting in churches or businesses or schools. Fear of the Pandemic brought a new phrase and concept into our vocabulary: “*Social Distancing*”. We look askance at others who nervously pass us by, careful to stay 6 feet apart. Handshakes and hugs are replaced by frowns and suspicion. The warmth of community is replaced by cold isolation.

The World Stopped and We Were Scattered!

Scattering and Gathering

Man, by nature, seems to be a builder. Whether it is a family, church, business or government, he wants it bigger. I once asked the head of a large charitable organization the purpose of their group, and he replied without hesitation, “*To get bigger!*”

God’s first command and blessing was to “*multiply*”. To multiply requires that we first *divide*. The process works automatically for families because children leave home and the older members die. But the other three institutions have all found ways to try to grow and exist indefinitely. Churches, businesses and government institutions have attempted to make themselves immortal through corporations and other legal creations. But history makes it clear God will divide us by *scattering* us from time to time, when we refuse to do it voluntarily.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 5 says, “*There is a time for everything...a time to scatter...and a time to gather.*” It is much like breathing that keeps us alive: we breathe in and then we breathe out.

As I read these verses, I was puzzled why “*scattering*” came before “*gathering*”, until I realized that God first “*scattered*” on the earth, as He breathed life into His creation. After that He gave His command for us to repeat this process as we “*fill the earth and subdue it*”. (Genesis 1:28).

Jesus explained the rationale in John 12:24: “*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*”

It seems God does want us to build and increase—but it is not to make ourselves bigger and more powerful, but in order that we may “*scatter*” it all in God’s name, and for His glory!

Unfortunately, we seem to like to “*gather*” more than to “*scatter*”.

Mankind’s rebellious nature quickly became evident as they built the Tower of Babel, reflected in Genesis 11:1-9 (Emphasis added), saying, “*Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and **not be scattered** over the face of the whole earth.*” But God would not allow them to wrest control from Him, “*So the Lord **scattered** them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.*”

Jesus gave similar instructions at the beginning of the New Testament, when He told His disciples “*...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the **ends of the earth.***” (Acts 1:8) (Emphasis added) But Christianity didn’t begin to explode across the world, until “*...a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were **scattered** throughout Judea and Samaria.*” (Acts 8:1) (Emphasis added).

God’s unwavering call throughout history has been for mankind to “*scatter*” after we “*gather*”. Yet every generation, including ours

and those who will follow us, tries to build its own Tower of Babel. We have always failed—and we will always fail! Because God will not yield His Power and Glory to us!

Our current culture seeks ever bigger companies, governments, programs, and charitable organizations, and looks for great leaders to show us the way—and the effect is often to paralyze us from being individuals who do what God has created us to be and to do.

When I was a young man at the close of WWII, the world had been devastated by conflict. Poverty and want were rampant. Our nation led the world in exporting our resources and our form of government and economics that have brought untold wealth and well-being to millions of people.

But there has been a subtle and unexpected cost for our affluence. In 1950, we were a nation of individuals and small institutions. We were poorer then, but we knew the corner grocer, and the local manufacturer. Families were intact and churches were full on Sunday. Much of our laws were made and enforced at the local or state level. The era of sports for the young and retirement homes for the older was just beginning.

Seventy years later we are a richer nation. But we are plagued by illegitimacy and broken families, declining faith, national and international ownership of our news media, restaurants and shops, our factories and our grocers and drug stores. Massive stadiums, theme parks and entertainment centers dot the land. But we have joined the world in printing money and increasing our debt to continue the abundance we have come to expect. And our laws and government are increasingly vested in Washington or some international body that seems almost foreign to us.

Once again we have tried to build our Tower of Babel, reach Heaven on our own, make a name for ourselves and not be *scattered!*

But, once again the World has been *scattered!* God has allowed the Virus Pandemic to shut down the entire World. Night after night the

television screen has shown us pictures of cities that were deathly quiet, as the World Has Stopped.

Quo Vadis?

Now, we are asking, “*Where do we go from here?*” (Quo Vadis?)

Many families are huddled together unsure of their future. Churches and other charitable organizations are wondering how they will survive in a new, unknown environment. Businesses see the need to regroup and are pondering what changes must be made. Even governments around the world are reeling from the effects of the sudden, mysterious change that has taken place. Massive unemployment, dwindling tax revenues and the need to find a vaccine haunt our thoughts. Life changing decisions must soon be made.

Many of us have begrudged the weeks of being “*scattered*” from our familiar groups. But is it possible that God in His Wisdom and Grace has actually given us an enforced time to think about how we are going to “*gather*” as the World starts again?

In every person’s life there are precipitating events that bring momentous change. Births, marriages, and deaths occur. We *gather* into new formations, live in new ways, and then we are *scattered*. So the rhythm of life goes on!

The same is true of our World, as we are *scattered* and then *gather* in new forms and new norms. WWII was such a precipitating event and it appears the current Pandemic is another. But here I would add a note of caution. WW II lasted almost 6 years. We have been dealing with the Pandemic for only a few weeks. And already I hear people planning to get back to the “Old Normal” in a few months!

As an old man looking back at life, I believe this is a monumental change that will take years to run its course. We did not know the outcome of WWII or what course the World would take, until it gradually began to take shape as the months and years rolled by. I believe the same will be true for us. When it begins to happen we will see it, if we are looking and asking the Lord to guide and direct us.

For now, we are adrift in an ocean of uncertainty. Our principal task is to survive and get through the Crisis. To do that I am using the guides I sent to some of you several weeks ago in *The World Has Changed*:

1. **Accept it!** The world has changed and it will never be the same again.
2. **Let Go!** Look forward and don't try and hang on to the old normal.
3. **Expect Uncertainty!** It is like WWII when we didn't know when (or even if) we would win.
4. **Think Long Term!** This may go on for years before it settles down.
5. **Live Lean!** Prepare to do without and substitute, but build margins of the essentials.
6. **Love and Be Loved!** Relationships with God and People will become increasingly important.
7. **Trust God!** Stop worrying and apply His Word e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.

As the scene unfolds, I pray we will all think Longer, Deeper and Wider as we ask God how he wants us to regroup and be His Ambassadors in the New World He gives us!

From Grandpa With Love

A 2020 Letter to Family and Friends

June, 2020

Our World is in Turmoil and we continue to ask, “Where do we go from here?” It appears we may once again be on the verge of a **total readjustment of society world-wide!** And many of us are apprehensive and looking for answers.

In August, I will celebrate my 95th Birthday. Each season of life has brought new challenges and new rewards. The 1920’s were the era of post-World War I excitement, culminating in the Stock Market crash of 1929. My boyhood was spent in the difficult years of the drought and economic disaster of the Great Depression in the 1930’s.

The 1940’s found us attempting to bring peace and stability to the world by defeating the dictatorships of Germany, Italy and Japan. We won, but troubles didn’t end and utopia didn’t arrive. Instead, America immersed itself for the decades of the 1950’s, 1960’s, 1970’s, and most of the 1980’s trying to contain the threat of Communism all over the world in the Korean War, the Viet Nam War and the Cold War with Russia.

The 1990’s found us beginning a new Information Age with “*economic exuberance*” and hopes for a bright new 21st Century—only to find our expectations were short lived as we experienced the new challenge of Islamic radicalism and the War against Terror with the bombings of September 11, 2001, and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now we are reeling from the Pandemic Virus and the Economic and Racial tensions that are constantly in the news. This autumn we will engage in an historic national election. The consequences are important and will have serious effects for many years to come. But when we put these events in perspective, we realize they are no more challenging than those our people have faced in the past. More importantly, as we read the Bible, it is quickly apparent that we in

America in the year 2020 are not facing anything worse than people have faced since the beginning of time!

In looking back it is clear to me that the great national and international problems we experienced over the years are not the main thrust of my memories. Instead, I recall a boyhood working on our little farm surrounded by the love of our family and friends and teachers. World War II was a time for adventure and manhood. The Korean, Viet Nam and Cold War eras brought college and love and marriage and children and friends, followed by years in the work-world and the opportunity to grow ever closer to Jesus and the brothers and sisters in His Kingdom. And my more recent years in this new century are full of personal relationships—not national or international problems!

In summary, I have found that life, like politics, is primarily local! We *talk* about the weather and big problems most of us can do little about. But we *live* and are *eternally affected* by people and events that surround us each and every day!

When we are young, many of us believe our generation can change the world and make it right. But when we near the end, we know we didn't. And we never will, because an imperfect mankind cannot fix itself.

As I age, I now read Ecclesiastes with a sense of comradeship rather than discouragement, and I recognize there truly is “*a time for everything*”... and that God “*has made everything beautiful in its time*”. (Ecclesiastes 3)

I have concluded my job is not to fix the world. Rather it is to be who God has created me to be, and then (like David) allow Him to use me to “*.. serve His purpose in (my) own generation..*” (Acts 13:36)

It is my prayer these thoughts will help you as they have me, to Trust the Lord and keep on “*Looking Forward With Hope*”!

From Grandpa With Love

The Significance of Eras in History

June, 2020

Are We Now in Era # 17?

When we are faced with new challenges, it sometimes seems they are a first in History, so we may become fearful and apprehensive. The future *is* always unknown, and there is *never* certainty about what will happen the next minute, hour, day, year, century or millennium. But History has taught us there *are* patterns and cycles that give us clues about what we may expect.

As I thought about the mounting Pandemic, Economic and now Racial Crisis, it caused me to look more closely at a pattern of approximately 15 year Eras that I had causally noted at different times. For example, some believe the journeys of the Apostle Paul occurred between about 45 AD to 60 AD; the Wild West from about 1865 to 1880; and the Depression/World War II era from about 1930-1945.

I decided, therefore, to look at the United States during its 250 years, and see what might emerge. Some possible scenarios are set forth below. **It is my hope those who are going through the current Crisis may begin to see this chaotic time is simply one more Era!**

For me, it becomes mind-boggling to try and see *all* the Future. But 10 years becomes more manageable. So I began to think about the weeks and months ahead, and put it within a 10 year window I think might be left in the current Era. Hopefully, it will put our Crisis in perspective and not be so overwhelming.

I pray it will also give a possible structure that can build and become more certain as the future unfolds.

<u>Era</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Significant President</u>
1775-1790	Revolution/Constitution/New Nation	Washington
1790-1800	Government Taking Shape	“
1800-1815	Louisiana Purchase/War of 1812	Jefferson
1815-1830	Growing Pains	Madison/ Monroe
1830-1850	Migration West/Mexican American War	Jackson
1850-1865	Growing Tension/Civil War	Lincoln
1865-1880	Wild West/ Railroad Expansion	Grant
1880-1900	Industrial Age/Spanish-American War	None
1900-1915	Into the World	T Roosevelt
1915-1930	WW I/ Flu /Roaring 20’s/ Stock Crash	Wilson
1930-1945	Depression/WW II	F Roosevelt
1945-1960	Korean War/Rebuild World	Truman/ Eisenhower
1960-1975	Viet Nam/Riots/Watergate/Moon	Kennedy/ Nixon
1975-1990	Inflation/End of USSR/Cold War	Reagan
1990-2000	Information Age/New Millennium	Clinton
2000-2015	911/Globalism/Mid-East/Recession	Bush II/ Obama
2015-2030	USADivides/Pandemic/ Next10Years?	Trump ??

From Grandpa With Love

Is It Autumn in America?

July, 2020

I have written for many years about the Cycle of Life with its revolving generations (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter), both in our individual lives and also throughout the Centuries and 500 year grand-generations of the Bible. A few days ago, a younger friend and I were discussing our current situation and how it might fit into the master timeline of History. He commented that my analogy had been drawn from the Bible and wondered if it applied to non-Biblical events.

As I considered his question, I began to look at the history of our own nation. That brought me to “*The Fourth Turning*” written in the 1990’s that looked back at our five centuries and concluded history and individuals walk through the same four generations—with a major crisis bringing a new round of events. E.g. the Revolution (1776), Civil War (1865), WWII (1945) and predicted the period of 2000-2025 would be ripe again. And it is.

As I thought deeper, I realized the New World (including the USA) began 500 years ago (**1492**) at the same time as the **Reformation** in a Biblical Time Line(1500)! And as I traced the four generations of our national existence it followed the same pattern:

Formation (From Columbus to formation of the United States) took **300** years to complete (**1500 to 1800**).

Maturation (It took us **150** years to occupy and develop our country and become the World’s Leader in World War II (**1800 to 1950**))

Distribution And within the last **70** years we have scattered our resources and free way of life to rebuild a war-torn world. (**1950-2020**)

Now it is **2020**, and we are aging, struggling internally with divisions and conflict, and the age-old question arises for this generation. It caused me to stop and ask myself, “*What season is it now in America?*” My answer was clear:

“I believe it is Autumn in America!”

When I was entering my 70’s, we made a graph showing Generation IV as blank and unknown. I sought out older people who had been where I was going and it helped me chart my course. Now, as I approach age 95, the future is once again blank and unknown. We don’t have many individuals to ask, but we do have the Lord and History if we are willing to listen.

I discussed the aging of America (and possible actions we might take as individuals) at some length several years ago, in *For Such a Time as This* in Part VI of *Passing It On*, and recent events have solidified my decision. You might read this if you want to think more deeply about these issues. And look at the signs around us. As my daughter said, “***When the leaves turn and fall, it is Autumn.***”

It is a wise person (and Nation) who knows when Winter is approaching and prepares accordingly. I pray our country will be who God created us to be for this time in History—and that we will each seek and follow Him as we transition to our next national chapter of life. Perhaps it will help to remember the promise God made to the Jewish nation as they suffered through their great crisis and return around 500-600 B.C. (Jeremiah (29:11).

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”.

From Grandpa With Love

Believing and Knowing

September 2, 2020

*Young people believe they can “fix” the world
and make it right.*

Old people know we didn’t.

WWII officially ended 75 years ago today, September 2, 1945, when Japan signed the Surrender aboard the USS Missouri.

Attached is a memory with some observations and lessons I learned. I hope they are helpful to you.

U. S. AIR FORCES

June 6, ‘44

-1900-

“D-Day”

Hi Folks—!

Well, guess you know the big news! I guess we are finally on the last lap. I would really like to see that. Think of it—11,000 planes. I bet you couldn’t even turn around in the air.

That’s all we’ve done today, listen to the radio as nearly everyone has a brother, friend or someone over there who will be in it. It’s too bad they can’t find a better way to get along in the world isn’t it?

I suppose that is one reason I wanted to be a statesman, not a politician. Someday, someday, someone should be able to stop all this—! I would like to work toward that end. Think what it would mean to the millions here now and those yet to come to be brought up in a world full of peace instead of tyranny and hate.

I guess I wasn’t built right to sit by and watch the world go by. Somehow I want to be a part of it and help it into a better condition. I’m tired of watching a bunch of politicians rule the nations of the world. It’s time for statesmen to do it. Too many people have let the other man do the work and take care of their troubles and now look at them. If someone doesn’t do something soon it will be

too late. We can't keep going on as we have been.

It is our own fault as much as anyone else's. We wanted to sit back by ourselves and let the rest of the world take care of itself. You can't! You live in the same world with them and you've got to help them when you are on top! A few more words and a few less bullets wouldn't do any of us any harm.

Sounds like a sermon, doesn't it? Well I guess that's the way I feel. All my love to the swellest folks a guy ever had—

Your son, Marvin

Dear Family and Friends,

It is humbling to look back and see how much I thought what we were doing would begin to make everything right—and then to catalogue all the wars and missteps which have been made by our generation during our time here on earth. *However, it has become obvious to me that we can and should feel and act as we do in each chapter in life. For it is only by going through life that we finally realize Who is in control and who is not, and learn what is God's role, and what is our role in the eternal picture!*

We are tempted to join the effort and try and perfect the world. But the Bible reminds us that as believers we are “*aliens and strangers in the world*”. (1 Peter 2:11) Our job is not to make everything work out right—our job is show the world an alternative (Jesus Christ), Who is going to get it right. In the meantime, we are to “*believe*” (John 6:29) and follow the description of David, who “*...served God's purpose in his own generation....*” (Acts 13:36a)

We don't need to wait for someone to form a committee, or an organization, or find a leader. We simply need to get started, and continue what He gives us to be and do, until He calls us Home.

From Grandpa With Love

Teach, Encourage and Ask

September, 2020

Teach the Children—

It helps them have Direction in Life.

Encourage the Mid-lifers—

It helps them have Perseverance in Life.

Ask the Older—

It helps them have Purpose in Life.

Dear Family and Friends,

A Pastor recently asked me what the church can do to minister to the older folks. As I looked back at life from my Mountain Top, I realized how much our needs change as we age. I concluded society does well Teaching the Children, and seems to be learning to Encourage the Mid-lifers. But, we are less sure what to do for the Older, other than try to protect, care, etc. for them (especially in this Virus age), for which I am very grateful.

I was glad he wanted to know my thoughts, and decided it might be helpful to mention one area that often seems missing in our senior years after our children are gone and we leave the work world; i.e. “*Purpose*”.

Dear Pastor,

I have thought more about your question when we met a few weeks ago: “What the church can do to minister to the older folks?”

Here is my answer to your question: “You were ministering to me when you asked my opinion and allowed me to minister to you.”

I hope someday we will all see ministering as the responsibility of all believers. (Ephesians 4). A wise older Preacher/Teacher/Author

scolded me one day when I referred to "The Minister". He said forcefully, "Don't ever say "The Minister"! Every believer is a minister!"

I don't give much advice anymore because I am not aware of all the facts and the current culture. But our older perspective is still there, One of the few ways we can contribute is to be asked for our perspective which has come with our longer life.

To my consternation, I have finally accepted that God's ways are often the direct opposite of man's. Ministering to others and giving build my sense of worth, but it can also become a source of pride. When a stronger person becomes the needy person, and receives from the weaker, he is in fact ministering by changing roles and letting them be "a minister." So we minister by letting others become ministers to us.

The key, as usual, is to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand. (1 Peter 5)

Here are a few scriptures that have been meaningful to me:

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you." (Deuteronomy 32:7)

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O, God, til I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." (Psalm 71:18)

"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?" (Job 12:12)

I hope this helps.

From Grandpa With Love

A Prayer for Our Divided Nation

September, 2020

History's on a count-down, It isn't just a whim.

For God knows where we're going,

And God knows where we've been!

It is clearer each day that the United States is becoming a Divided House. Abraham Lincoln, at the time of the Civil War, paraphrased Jesus words, and told us, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” It was true when Jesus lived 2000 years ago; it was true in the 1860’s when our nation fought a bloody Civil War; and it is true today. The question is, “Why are we divided?” And with it, the corollary question, “What shall we do about it?”

My search took me back to my early days in the labor arena with its acrid strife—and sometimes violence. As I reread *Harmony in the Workplace*, (1978), I realized the actions that brought Harmony out of Discord were much the same, regardless of the times, or size and scope of the Institution. They could be summarized as follows:

The Problems

Selfish Leadership

Change

Divided House

The Solutions

Servant Leadership.

Communications and Competence

Security.

1) **Selfish Leadership** Problem number one is **Selfish Leadership**. **The real answer is Servant Leadership**. That means more personal sacrifice and less personal success for those in charge. When Harry Truman left the White House, he went home without a pension or security detail. He did not even own his own home, but lived in his wife’s parents’ house. Compare that with the change in our culture and the massive wealth accumulated by recent elected leaders,

I pray that we will elect

the right Servant Leaders on November 3!

2) Change Problem number two was **Change**. The Information (Tech) Revolution and Artificial Intelligence is upending our world and leaving out massive numbers of employees. A few owners and innovators are making fortunes and amassing tremendous power, but average people are being left behind. We found two anti-dotes:

A) Two Way Communication. Our leaders must speak and listen—but so must we!

I pray for truth, uncensored News and Social Media, and the courage to speak and pray for everyone!

B) Competence: To be a free and independent people we need to be competent and able to take care of ourselves. If we don't want government control we must control ourselves.

I pray for a resurgence of families who raise up children “in the way they should go”, including a real education, and for new businesses where large numbers of people will be competent and free to act without fear of reprisal!

3) Divided House: The end result of these problems is a **Divided House**. We are split Old and Young; Rich and Poor; Faith-based and Atheist; Recent Immigrant and Native Born; Coastal and Inland, etc. We found that employees were looking for **Security**. I believe our citizens are seeking the same thing today as they see Discord, Riots, Racial tensions, etc. beginning to explode across the land!

I pray for Law, Order and Peace to prevail!

Conclusion

It is becoming increasingly clear we are living at a watershed time in History. The Old is gone and we are not going back. Only God knows what lies ahead, but it may happen very rapidly. The entire nightmare of the Great Depression, World War II, and Hitler and the Holocaust took only 15 years (1930-1945), but it destroyed much of our civilization and cost 70-85 million people.

I believe it is time to Pray to God to Intervene!

From Grandpa With Love!

Life and Death

September, 2020

Thanks for your note,

You pointed out that C S Lewis gives three options concerning the end of life here on earth: “*desire it; fear it; or ignore it.*” I believe there is at least one more which is my own belief: “*Be content and rejoice in the fact that it will happen when God decrees; and our job is to continue the work He gives us to do at our time of life, but always “be ready” to leave as described in Matthew 24*”.

I heard two questions in your memo:

- a) How do older folks handle approaching death?
- b) How can I not fear death?

I have listed below some thoughts that may help.

a) How do older folks handle approaching death?

Our view of death seems to shift as we age. When we are young we accept that *others* will die—but it seems to be *their* problem. As we reach “middle age” and the generation in front of us passes on, we become uncomfortably aware that time will ultimately run out for us, too. We continue to stay busy, but someplace in our fifties or sixties we usually accept that we, too, will die. Now we concentrate on our “legacy” to prove our time here on earth was worthwhile. But, by age 75 or 80, death is a reality we can’t ignore as friends and families leave at an increasing rate.

As we move into retirement centers, death is a constant companion. Some recognize they come to die, others come to enjoy the last few years. But my observation is that most everyone continues their previous view of eternity absent some new insights that alters their lifelong belief system.

Those in extreme mental, physical or emotional pain, may welcome, or even hasten, the end. But most accept that the end is near and they simply wait for it to happen even if they are non-believers who think they came from nothing and will go to nothing.

The saddest at any age, for me, are those who believe in Heaven and Hell, but they are afraid they won't make the cut because they have been "too bad" or not done enough "good works".

b) How can I not fear death?

I believe the key is understanding what we mean by "*life and death*". God made everything in this world to die: people, animals, plants, institutions—everything! The Old Testament concentrates on Death at the end of life here on earth. The New Testament concentrates on Death when we surrender and are "born again" into the Kingdom of God.

The Old Testament commends a proper burial after Death here on earth. The New Testament teaches that Believers go to sleep when our earthly bodies stop functioning. In fact, they were placed in a "cemetery" which comes from the Greek term for "sleeping".

As Believers, you and I died when we surrendered and let "*God's Will* (and not *My Will*) *be done*". We died when we were "*born again*". That is why we die to ourselves and take up our cross daily. Galatians 2:20 says it well: "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*"

Since we have already died there is no reason to fear death!

I can understand fear. For me it was a desperate fear of giving up my will and letting Christ rule my life. I told a friend I felt as if I were going to my own execution. He explained to me, "You were. Don't you understand, you can't be 'born again' until you die to yourself."

So my fear is now behind me. I am very content with the role God has given me. Full of gratitude that far outweighs any concerns. It is a new adventure I look forward to whenever God is ready. For clarification you might read the short description I placed at the end of Volume VI, *Time* which will give you some idea of my thinking.

It has only been in my later years that I finally began to comprehend the radical difference Jesus brought to this world through, His birth, ministry, death and resurrection as recorded in the writings we know as the New Testament.

Both the Old and New Testaments speak of God's rule. But the O T refers primarily to earthly manifestation of the God's reign through the nation of Israel, while the NT speaks of the eternal, invisible Kingdom of God. Both speak of Life. But the OT refers to the Good Life, here in this world and little about an Afterlife. By contrast the NT speaks of Eternal Life and the invisible Kingdom of God. As we die to Life in this world, we are born again into eternal life and live in an eternal Kingdom. Also, the Old Testament features the rich, famous and powerful, but there is not a single rich, famous or powerful person in the New Testament!.

When I look at the scriptures and our current lifestyle, I sadly conclude that many of us (including myself, particularly in my earlier years) have unwittingly sought the "*Good Life*" (promised in the Old Testament for this World if we obey God's Laws) and made *it* our goal for our few earthly years—rather than denying ourselves in this World and accepting the "*Eternal Life*" promised by Jesus for those who surrender and follow Him in this World and on into Forever.

As an old man, I find worldly things have become hazier and the eternal has grown clearer. I realize I am nearer than ever to leaving this earth and all it has held dear. It is sobering to approach the end of life. But when we are realistic, we know that this imperfect world as we know it will come to an end and be replaced by a "*new heaven and earth*" described in *Revelation*, the last book of the Bible.

Recently the importance of this concept moved me so deeply that I was convicted to make a plaque and place it on my bedroom wall stating:

***I am not in the Land of Life,
moving toward Death.***

***I am in the Land of Death,
moving toward Eternal Life!***

As I read and reread the Biblical accounts of Jesus' life, I realized that His constant message was never about perpetually enlarging or extending the lives of earthly institutions or nations, nor extending our temporary lives here on earth. Instead, He repeated over and over that he came to offer us Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God (Heaven)!

His followers then, (and often now) wanted Him to “fix” the Kingdom of the World and make everything right here on earth. But that wasn't Jesus' message. He did not give us an answer for perfecting the Kingdom of the World.

***Instead, He stressed emphatically that His Kingdom
was not of this world,***

***And He was offering us an “eternal alternative”—
if we are willing to receive it!***

As the World grows darker and we watch the decline of our culture, our nation and many of our institutions, it makes His offer even more attractive. The clouds may grow darker, but it only makes the light of His Kingdom shine brighter.

I pray what I have written will be helpful. But remember, these are simply one man's thoughts and we all err. So, as usual, hold onto that which is good (of God)—and discard the rest.

From Grandpa With Love

THE THREE P'S

October, 2020

*Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.*

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
(Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Introduction

I grew up in what has been described as the “Depression/World War II” generation. In 1932 we moved to a small acreage we called “The Farm” in order to grow our own food. Sometimes I had the responsibility to milk the cows, the old fashioned way, with a metal bucket and seated on a milk stool next to the cow. There were two ways to make a milk stool. One was quick and easy: just nail two boards together like a “T” and sit on it—but you “wobbled”. The other way was harder: make a seat and put three legs under it. It took longer to make the *three* legged stool, but you were more apt to finish safely!

Later, as a Navigator in the Army Air Corps (later known as the Air Force) during WWII, we learned to find three “points” to give us a “fix” or location. Using one point gave us a single line on the chart. Two gave us an “X” on the line that could be far off the actual location.

But utilizing *three* points usually gave us a small triangle close to our actual position. Or so we hoped!

Lots of things in life seem to be like that. In government, we have found that the three branches of “legislative”, “executive” and “judicial”, produce a much more reliable and stable government, than simply concentrating on one powerful head.

It is certainly true in the Bible. Biblical triplets (beginning with the concept of the Trinity) become readily apparent when we are

searching for them. And what a sense of relief it is to find God giving me assurance of reliable Biblical themes in the form of these “*three cord strands*” that often show me where I am and the way I am to go.

Set forth below is one of these Biblical Trilogies. I call it “***The Three P’s***”. Following its trail through the Bible shows how this one great theme has become a bedrock principle throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

And, it all begins with the first two people who received God’s Original Blessing in the Garden of Eden.

I. In the Beginning (Genesis 1)

“God blessed them”

God blessed them and said to them,

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it.

They will be yours for food.”

(Genesis 1:28-29)

God’s first act after He created the first man and woman was to bless them. Then God did one more marvelous thing. He entrusted us with His creation. He made us His stewards and placed us in charge of His world. As tools to carry out our trust, He gave us three wonderful gifts: ***Pleasure, Possessions and Position***. ***Pleasure***, including the fulfillment of marital sex and children; ***Possessions*** to use and enjoy; and ***Position*** as the rulers of what God has entrusted to us as His subjects.

As long as we use these three gifts to glorify God and to help others as well as ourselves, they would be a great blessing to us and to all mankind. There was only one condition: we must obey God.

A basic issue in life is whether we are going to seek and obey God's will, or try and use our own will. Every person, in every place and time must make this same choice. If we choose our own will, we may get short-term gratification, but we get long term problems for ourselves and others, and we lose eternal life. If we choose God's will, we may have some short-term difficulties, but we get long term benefits including the gift of eternal life.

And, when we obey God and accept His will for our use of His three gifts, they are blessings to us and to those around us. But they can become a curse if we yield to temptation and try and live in accordance with our self-centered will!

II. Eve (and Adam) (Genesis 3)

"Be like God"

God gave Adam a virtual free reign in the original paradise we call the Garden of Eden. The single exception was His command not to "*eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...*", under pain of death.

In Genesis 3:1-5 Satan tempts Eve and falsely tells her that not only will she not die, but also that her eyes will be opened and she will "*be like God*"!

Eve takes the bait. She decides to substitute her own will for God's command and yield to the physical *Pleasure* of food; the eye pleasing excitement of claiming something as her *Possession*; and the **Position** she thought wisdom would bring. And Adam meekly follows along.

Genesis 3:6 records their mutiny in these words:

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was
good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining
wisdom, she took some and ate it.*

*She also gave some to her husband, who was with her,
and he ate it.*

And so, this original couple turned away from God. They decided to try and run their own lives. To use the *Pleasure, Possessions and Position* God had entrusted to them to glorify and serve themselves, rather than obeying God .

As a result, they broke their relationship with their Creator and became lost. And just as children follow in their parents' footsteps, all their descendants became lost as well.

From birth, each generation was alienated from God—frightened, floundering, fighting, seeking meaning but not finding it, as they "*corrupted their ways*". (Genesis 6:11-13)

Finally, God loses patience and visits a giant flood on the earth which destroys all mankind except Noah and his family. God blesses Noah and his sons and repeats His command, "*Be fruitful and fill the earth*". (Genesis 9:1)

At first the clans of Noah and their descendants obey God and "*spread out over the earth*" (Genesis 10:32). But then mankind's desire to use God's gifts of *Pleasure, Possessions and Position* for themselves, rears its ugly head again, as shown in our next example.

III. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

"Not be scattered "

The story of the Tower of Babel reads as if it could take place today.

*As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar
and settled there. They said to each other,
"Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly."
They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.
Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city,
with a tower that reaches to the heavens,
so that we may make a name for ourselves
and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."
(Genesis 11:2-4)*

Even though these events took place thousands of years ago, every generation, including ours, seems destined to repeat the process! We

seek the **Pleasure** of an easy place to live; the satisfaction we feel as we build buildings and cities that we claim as our **Possessions**; and the **Position** we can enjoy with a sense of pride and self-glorification as we see our name paraded with pride on our institutions and buildings.

But God was still in control and showed His displeasure that His people refused to “scatter”. Genesis 11:4-6 concludes:

*But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower
that the men were building.
The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language
they have begun to do this,
then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.
Come, let us go down and confuse their language
so they will not understand each other.”
So the Lord scattered them from there all over the earth...*

God’s command that we *scatter* across the earth became evident again in the New Testament with Jesus’ final Commission to His followers recorded in Matthew 28:19: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*”

In Acts 8:1 we see God’s hand causing this to happen:

*On that day a great persecution broke out
against the church at Jerusalem,
and all except the apostles were scattered
throughout Judea and Samaria.*

Biblical history, including our next example, makes it clear that God’s Blessings and the Satan’s Temptations have been happening since time began. And it seems equally clear that, left on our own, most of us will try to use His blessings of **Pleasure, Possessions and Position** primarily for own benefit.

IV. Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2)

Chasing the Wind

King Solomon probably had as much or more **Pleasure, Possessions and Position** as any person in history. Yet, in writing Ecclesiastes

toward the close of his life, Solomon speaks nine times of, “*chasing the wind!*” Did you ever think of chasing the wind and trying to catch it? I believe Solomon was simply saying, “I spent my life chasing things I could not catch!” When we read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, we can hear the cry of futility voiced by this renowned, wealthy and wise king because he finally concluded he had been “*chasing the wind*”.

(Pleasure) *I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter”, I said, is foolish. “And what does pleasure accomplish?” I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.*

(Possessions) *I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slave and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man.*

(Position) *I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.”*

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”

Fortunately, after years of frustration, Solomon finally ends his frustrating life and letter as he realized the need to let God be in control as he concludes with these penetrating words:

*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.
(Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

V. Jesus (Matthew 4)

“It is written”

Jesus is the change point in history. His response to the devil’s temptation, in Matthew 4:1-11, to embezzle for Himself God’s great blessings of “**Pleasure, Possessions and Position**”, was a shining illustration of that change. It also gives us a vital key to the action which we can take when we are tempted: rely on God’s Holy Word!

First came “**Pleasure**”: “*After fasting forty days and forty nights*“, Jesus was hungry. But when the devil tempted Him to turn the stones into bread, Jesus responded:

“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Next, came Satan’s temptation to Jesus to prove His “**Position**” by intentionally throwing Himself off the highest point of the temple. Again, Jesus answers from scripture:

*“It is also written:
‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

Finally, the devil showed Jesus “*all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor*”, and tempts Jesus with “**Possessions**” by urging:

“All this I will give you...if you will bow down and worship me”.

Again, Jesus replied:

*“Away from me, Satan! For it is written:
‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”*

Unlike Eve and Adam, the builders of the Tower of Babel, and King Solomon, Jesus remained steadfast. By so doing, He broke the power of sin for those who would follow Him.

VI. What About Us?

“Thy Will Be Done”

The Apostle, John, clearly warns each of us about the stark choice we must make if we want to follow Jesus into Eternal Life rather than

listening to Satan and selling Eternity for ***Pleasure, Possessions and Position*** in this temporary world:

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love of the Father is not in him.

*For all that is in the world—
the lust of the flesh (**Pleasure**),
and the lust of the eyes (**Possessions**),
and the pride of life (**Position**)
is not of the Father but is of the world.
And the world passes away, and the lust of it;
but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

(1 John 2:15-17 RSV)

The key is simple and the blessings are wonderful and lasting—if we **choose Him and His will!** But we have to stop trying to be “Boss”. We must admit that God is God, and that only Jesus can restore our relationship with Him.

If we will do this, He will begin replacing our desire for ***Pleasure, Possessions and Position*** for ourselves, with a desire to use these blessings to love and glorify God and to love and serve others.

**What a Blessings that will be for Us
And for Everyone around Us!**

From Grandpa With Love

Servant Leadership

October, 2020

*Sometimes we have to get Old
Before we realize God gives us Position and Power
To Serve-- Not to Exploit Others*

One of the most important lessons I learned in studying the Bible was that God repeats His messages. Sometimes, it is an earlier message being repeated word for word in a new setting, as Jesus did when He arose in the Synagogue and read a passage relating to Himself. At other times, it is a theme, such as the Blessings which can become Temptations (e.g. Pleasure, Possessions and Position found in Genesis 1:28-29, the account of the Tower of Babel, the Temptations of Jesus and 1 John 2:15-16). Deuteronomy has been called a summary version of Genesis-Numbers; and the Gospel accounts give us four views of Jesus' life with many of the same basic scriptures.

But, only once in the Bible have I found a major lesson repeated at length almost word for word! It has stuck in my mind for years. I knew it must be important. It was and it still is. So important that it resulted in the split of the Jewish Nation into Israel and Judah which exists to this day!

And how we handle this issue will have a major impact on the success or failure of our Families, our Churches, our Workplaces and our Nation!

The story is found in 1 Kings 12:1-19 and repeated almost verbatim in 2 Chronicles 10. The problem and solution, in this old text, tells us it caused the rebellion and division of Israel for thousands of years, and it faces every generation and group, including our society today. I hope it encourages you as it has me.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime.

"How would you advise me to answer these people", he asked.

They replied,
***“If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them
and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your
servants.”***

*But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him
and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were
serving him.*

*He asked them, “What is your advice? How should we answer these
people who say to me,*

‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us?’”

*The young men who had grown up with him replied, “Tell these
people who have said to you,*

*‘Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter’—tell
them ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. My father laid
on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier.*

*My father whipped you with whips; I will scourge you with
scorpions.’*

*When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they
answered the king:*

*“What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son?
To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!”
So the Israelites went home.*

***“So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David
to this day.”***

(1 Kings 12:1-19; 2 Chronicles 10) (But see God’s redemptive plan
in Ezekiel 37:15-28)

***It is my prayer we will be Servant Leaders in every part of our
own lives;***

***And that we will elect Servant Leaders to rule over us in our
world today!***

From Grandpa With Love

Winning Eternally!

December, 2020

**The most successful man in History is Jesus.
And He Won Eternally—By Losing in this World!**

Jesus began His ministry by showing His power to win by “**Economic Success**”. At the end he revealed His power to win by “**Military Might**”. But He used neither and explained that His Kingdom was not of this world!

Economic Success

(Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)

As Luke describes the calling of the first Disciples, he relates Jesus’ instruction to Peter: “*Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch*”, and then tells us, “*When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break...and they filled both boats so full they began to sink.*”. In essence, Jesus seems to be saying, “*You are professional fishermen. I can help you make a lot of money. Here are two boatloads of fish to prove the point.*” But, He adds, “***Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.***”

It is as if He says, “*I can make you rich, but that isn’t the way we are going to do it. Instead, we are going to give up being successful and become nothing in the eyes of the world as we live in the Kingdom of God on earth.*”

And the disciples followed! “***So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.***”

Military Might:

(Matthew 26:51-54; Luke 22:36-38; John 18:33-37)

A parallel event happened at the close of the Last Supper, after Jesus instructed His disciples “*...if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.*” Peter later used one of their swords to cut off the ear of

one of the soldiers who attempted to arrest Jesus. Once more Jesus spoke to Peter, saying “***Put your sword back in place...for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.***”

Then He made it plain that he could “*call on My Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of Angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?*”

Just as Jesus could have been an “**Economic Success**”, so now He reveals he could have won by “**Military Might**”. But He didn’t. Instead, He allowed Himself to be taken prisoner, flogged and crucified on a Cross. He was such a complete Loser that bystanders mocked Him and told Him if He was King to prove it. And He did!

The Cost of Winning Jesus’ Way

(Luke 14:25-33; Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:8-14)

Jesus rose on Easter morning, showed Himself to His followers, and then ascended into Heaven. And He invites all of us to join Him in His Heavenly Kingdom. But He makes it clear we need to count the cost:

*“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and count the cost....? Or suppose a king us about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able...? He then concludes, “***In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.***”*

Nearly every major character in the Old Testament was Rich, Famous or Powerful. **By contrast there were no Rich, Famous or Powerful people of any consequence in the New Testament.** (A couple of powerful men did come to Him, but only privately under cover of night.) Instead Jesus says,

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” And “*Blessed are you when people*

insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me because great is your reward in heaven...”

For many years, the following admonition to the Corinthian Church by the Apostle Paul, has haunted me in our affluent American culture:

“Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. We are fools for Christ, but you as so wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored but we are dishonored. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.”

Paul concludes, *“I am not writing you to shame you but to warn you...”*

Conclusion

I do not believe I am to seek martyrdom. But neither am I to use my remaining years seeking the pleasures, luxuries and fame of this world.

For 95 years I have watched and worked as we tried to make the world right through **Economic Success** and/or **Military Might**. It helps, but it hasn't worked. It will never succeed, because of man's inherent nature.

As we grow older, our world grows smaller and our circle diminishes, but I believe God intends to use us where we are, with what we have left.

We can still Receive, Enjoy, Increase and Distribute whatever He gives us. Like His early followers, we can “*die to ourselves*”, be “*born again*” and live out our lives here showing His Eternal Alternative to the World.

**When we are through, I look forward to seeing you
in Heaven—for Eternity!**

From Grandpa With Love

Time

December, 2020

*Time is so interesting
It often stands still,
And then it's so fast
It gives you a thrill.*

*But as we grow older
Most everyone sees,
It is people, not time
Who build memories!*

Dear Family and Friends,

As we end 2020 and I think about *Time* and *Eternity*, it makes me feel very small and insignificant in a world of billions. But still very important to God and the people He placed in my life. And I thank Him and all of you!

Life unfolded for me, through the four chapters of life described in "*Four Generations: A Journey Through Life*".

- **Generation I—Age 0-25**. During these years we **Learn**, but we live "**NOW**". We enjoy the **Pleasures** of youth as we wonder, "*What will I be and do in life?*" And ask, "*How do I see me?*"
- **Generation II—Age 25-50** These are the productive years when we **Do** and suddenly see a "**LIFETIME**". We seek the thrill and security of **Possessions** and ask ourselves, "*How do others see me?*"
- **Generation III—Age 50-75** Now we **Teach** what we've learned. Our buzz word is "**LEGACY**". We focus on writing books and building pyramids, so our **Position** and accomplishments won't be forgotten in history.
- **Generation IV—Age 75-On** In our last days, it is time to **Finish**. We feel a kinship to Ecclesiastes who described the Pleasures, Possessions and Position of this World as "*chasing the wind*". Now, we concentrate on **Relationships**, knowing **TIME** will soon give way to **ETERNITY** and **FOREVER!**

We increasingly see the goal was never really about **ME**, and how I was viewed or what I accomplished for my own satisfaction or for others, or for God. Rather, it was about what **God** was doing in and through me and all the Saints to bring about the **ONENESS** Jesus described at the close of his prayer in John 17.

The “space and time” Kingdom of the World is a little like being in school—it is not the real world. But when we are young students, we can get so caught up in our studies, proms and excitement that we *think* it is the real world! In fact, there is much more fulfillment, and even excitement, in the real (invisible) Kingdom of God than in the temporary (visible) Kingdom of the World.

Since, only God, His Word, His Love and His People are going to Heaven, why would we work only for other things—and then leave them all here?

Our visible, “space and time” world is like the “*Titanic*”. It is dying and it is ultimately going to sink. Our job is to start getting off into the Kingdom of God, and show and tell others so they can get off into what may seem like a cramped, uncomfortable, but actually very safe, life boat.

The closer I get to the end, the closer God becomes and the clearer I see His Perspective. Somehow what was murky and cloudy earlier in life, now becomes more understandable—and credible. We *do* accomplish great advances in living conditions which are wonderful. But as we grow older, we realize the wars continue, and the earth has been getting warmer since the last Ice Age. We reluctantly conclude only Jesus’ “*new Kingdom*” will get it *completely* right!

So, each generation either gets disappointed and finally dies while still wondering deep down what it was all about—or we surrender and accept Jesus and move into the Kingdom of God.

We will always see only “dimly” what God is doing. But as we near the end of our lives, we know in our hearts that after we arrive Home

in the Land of Eternal Life and look back at “space and time” in the Kingdom of the World from which we are being freed, we will finally be enabled to understand it all from **His** point of view.

Then we will enjoy the *Treasure* we have been storing ahead, and receive our *Eternal Inheritance and Reward!*

***For me, I Believe It will be,
The Presence of God and All the Saints for Eternity!***

See You in Heaven!

From Grandpa With Love