

## **Life - What Can We Make of It?**



# Subtopics

<b>LIFE – WHAT CAN WE MAKE OF IT? .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Making the Most of a Shattered Life.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>On His Blindness.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>What Does Life Mean? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
(A dialogue).....	6
<i>Forget about Leaving This Life .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>The Clock Is Ticking.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Are You in Charge of Your Fate? .....</i>	<i>16</i>
Controlling Your Future .....	17
<i>More on Determining Your Own Fate.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Living Is All That Matters.....</i>	<i>20</i>



## **Life – What Can We Make of It?**

LIFE – it's a wonderful, fearsome time full of troubles and, at the same time, generously sprinkled with the grace and mercy of God. Life is good, it can be a plague; it is joyous, it is sad. No one can say their life is without adversity of some sort. Similarly, no one can truthfully say there are no pleasures in their life.

### **Making the Most of a Shattered Life**

The poet John Milton mused on his having lost his sight in the prime of life and as a result of that musing he wrote the following poignant verse. (I have taken the liberty of inserting quotation marks and bracketed explanations of the English language marks in Milton's day):

#### **On His Blindness**

“When I consider how my light is spent [I have lost my sight]  
E're half my days, in this dark world and wide,  
And that one Talent [his poetic ability] which is  
death to hide,  
Lodg'd with me useless, though my Soul more bent  
[is more desirous]  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present My true  
account, lest he returning chide,  
'Doth God exact day-labour [sighted service],  
[when] light [my sight is] deny'd,'  
I fondly [foolishly] ask; But patience to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, 'God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts, who best Bear  
his milde yoke [yoke], they serve him best, his State  
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed  
And post [carry his message] o're Land and Ocean  
without rest:  
They also serve who only stand and waite.'”

Milton evidently rebounded from his depression and continued to write for approximately two decades after he lost his sight and in that time produced *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, and *Samson Agoniste*. They were arguably three of his best works – achieved after losing his sight! There is a powerful lesson and moral here that, combined with the moving *On His Blindness*, should make any foot-dragging servants of Christ hang their heads in shame.

Life is NOT fair, so there is no point in bemoaning the fact. Life is not all joy and peace (although we have those qualities in abundance). It remains that life is a lifelong duty and we had best get about fulfilling it.

For another view of the meaning of life, please read the following section relating to an imaginary dialogue between an agnostic and a Christian:

I wrote the following essay in 1995, long before the infamous terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 (as you may recall, life was not exactly a happy-go-lucky existence even in 1995). It was also before I had acquired thirteen more years of testing and thirteen more wonderful years of experience with the Lord. Every word I penned then I can substantiate now. For me old age with its failing health and reduced mental and physical powers would be a gloomy, fearsome existence without God. But with Him – what can I say? – it is a wonderful age! AJS

### **What Does Life Mean?**

#### **(A dialogue)**

Life has become a hectic thing in this latter half of the twentieth century. There no longer seem to be persons who are just naturally carefree. Everyone, from those in their preteen years up to senior citizens, is concerned about the **state** of the world and about life in general. Following is an imaginary dialog

between an agnostic (one who says we cannot know of the existence of God) and a believer. We have printed it in an attempt to clear our minds and to regain our perspective on this sometimes-confusing thing called LIFE.

### ***Agnostic***

“When viewed in a coldly objective manner, existence on this earth makes no sense. Humanity is a squirrel in a revolving cage — going nowhere in a hurry.

“Look at this perpetual exercise in futility: Ever since Adam (if there ever was an Adam) countless generations have been born and have died in a never-ending cycle. This is the height of futility. The individual man appears on the scene for a few years and then vanishes to be seen no more. Whether he amasses great wealth or a few pitiful rags, it doesn't matter. He lives, he dies and the world goes on without him.”

### ***Believer***

“When I, a seventy-five-year old [this was 13 years ago] God-inspired person, look at it, existence on this earth makes eminent sense. I am here simply because God has willed for me to be here. Humanity in general may be a squirrel in a revolving cage, going nowhere in a hurry, but Christ has taught us that human life has tremendous potential and value in His sight. Life, as the immortal human spirit epitomizes it, meant so much to Him that He was willing to die for it. Therefore, it stands to reason that we who believe in Him should not wander aimlessly through this existence. God has a mission and a sense of purpose for me and for each of us. We should not ignore this fact, but throw all our spiritual resources into finding out what our individual mission and purpose are. The secret is not to wait until we hear a voice from heaven telling us what to do, but to live day by day, doing each day what good we can.”

### ***Agnostic***

“The sun rises; the sun sets. Day follows clone-like day; the seasons come and go with monotonous regularity. Life is a

fruitless journey, an unending search for the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow that itself is illusive and insubstantial. There could never be a pot of gold at the end of this shimmering mirage, although men have put forth every effort to make the legend a fact. The run for the dollar, along with the titillation of sex, has become a national and global obsession. This too is vanity.”

### ***Believer***

“I agree with you. The sun rises, the sun sets, and day does follow day in an unending grind. But the man who has his heart set on pleasing God will find in it more than the pain and disappointments that all men know. He will find a comfort and an assuring awareness of doing the will of God. To those not close to God this may not seem to be enough. But then, when they are not friends of God, what can they know about Him and the joy and peace that only He can give? For anyone who totally involves himself in pleasing God, this is more than sufficient for mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.”

### ***Agnostic***

“Look at this for futility: Men live longer today; just long enough to contract afflictions that their forefathers seldom came across. In days of old they died of the old standards like smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever. Today man lives longer than his forebears — so that he can experience more misery, his own and that of others, in that lengthened life span. The days of the aged person grow long and wearisome, and to the man (or woman) who has been blessed to maintain his mental faculties, the vanity of life and living becomes all too clear.

“And then, to add to the sheer futility of living, too often some debilitating affliction overwhelms him. It saps the strength and energy from his body and the joy from his life. At that point it is just a matter of enduring from day to day and wishing that whatever power there is that foisted life on him would end the cruel joke and let the weary warrior be carried out on his shield. It's painfully clear that man is not the master of his fate nor is he the captain of his soul.”

***Believer***

“Again I agree with you — up to a point. Men on the average are living considerably longer than their ancestors; and they do often live long enough to contract afflictions with which their forefathers were unfamiliar. In the process they (the Christian too!) see more misery, that of their own and others.

“But there is a certain advantage to growing old. The older person accrues a smattering of wisdom and a tolerance and acceptance of the fact that he and his peers are less than perfect. He achieves a measure of contentment to such a degree that others may look upon him, in his calm acceptance of life, as an "elder statesman." He could not attain to this level of tolerance in his younger years with their hectic pace. For the older person, an increased likeness to Christ is the answer to life's adversities, the same adversities he had as a youth.”

***Agnostic***

“Admittedly, there is a certain advantage to growing old. For every candle added to the birthday cake there should be an increase in goodness and gentleness and virtue. But too often this simply is not true. I also admit that the older person accrues, or should accrue, a smattering of wisdom. He acquires — or should acquire — a tolerance and acceptance of the fact that he and his peers are, after all, less than perfect. He may even achieve a measure of contentment until suddenly — he awakens to the fact that his mortality is inexorably catching up to him.

“That usually happens after he has settled back to bask in the fragile newfound serenity induced by mature years. But, as we all have seen, he inevitably has to confront an aging body and sometimes a regressive mind. He may suffer from Alzheimer's disease or senility, twin dragons that can come roaring out of the night at any time. But perhaps that is the wrong figure. These plagues silently and slowly envelop their victims until the victims forever lose any semblance of a quality life. However, in whatever way these tragedies come, whether roaring like a dragon or bleating like a lamb, the result is devastating.

“There are other ravaging afflictions that can also strike one who is in the upper echelons of age. And if he is fortunate enough to escape these tragedies, one by one his friends and acquaintances grow weary and loosen their grip on life or mental stability. They plunge into the abyss from which there is no return in this existence and their "fortunate" friend is left alone in a world of strangers.”

### ***Believer***

“Despite your gloom and doom, I have a word of comfort for those Christians who are well and active now, but who have become prime candidates for these catastrophes of old age. There is strong comfort **in knowing, before the dreaded Alzheimer's or senility or whatever strikes**, that their lives are in the loving hands of God. I can't stress this enough. They do not have to live in fear. This does not at all suggest that affliction will not smite them, only that it is God who holds their future and it is He who holds them in His powerful yet tender hands. If God permits these afflictions to strike His children (and where has He promised to eliminate all of life's distresses?), there is a purpose in it. And I, as an older Christian myself, am willing to leave this potentially devastating matter in the hands of my God. What will be will be, but only, **only** as God allows it. In that I have the utmost confidence. If the fog of old age eases imperceptibly into my mind, blotting out all reasoning — well, I will have had my day the same as all men before me. And God will then in His wisdom have concluded that day before the sun has set.

“We know also that beyond this transitory life there is an endless existence in which there will be no indignities and pains imposed on us such as Alzheimer's and senility bring. And what is this present trivial suffering compared to the pleasures and joys we have been eagerly awaiting all our saved lives?

“The days of the aged at times may grow long and tiresome, and the vanity of life and living becomes all too clear. But Christ has the answer to this too, and He whispers hope in the prisoner's ear and peace in his heart. The Spirit of God is the

difference between hopeless living and living in hope. I know this from personal experience.”

### ***Agnostic***

“What you are saying does not alter the negative facts of this life and this world. For instance, it's unbelievable that man's scientific knowledge has so greatly outstripped his ethics. Man, who was born a wingless, earthbound creature, has outdone God's winged species. He has flown to the moon in his constant probe into the unknown. He has unearthed secrets that fifty years ago we would not have thought were accessible.

“But his ethics are still in the primitive state. Men still kill each other, on a one-on-one basis or in vast scenes of carnage known as wars. Nations and individuals fight and kill over the most trivial matters. The pettiness of their disputes does not matter to them so long as they can vent the hatred that smolders within.

“Meanwhile, the world has been spinning on its axis and whirling around the sun for thousands of years. This has evidently had its effect on mankind, a confused species that has been going around in circles throughout its brief, futile history. On a somewhat shaky positive side, I must admit that man has made some remarkable advances. But how have these great strides in knowledge benefited the world's miserable masses? Why are there yet millions relegated to the lowest depths of poverty? Why do thousands of children die daily of starvation? Why are there such glaring examples of man's remorseless inhumanity to man, not just in the Third World countries, not just in foreign lands, but in the United States, the so-called bastion of Christianity?

“Why, why, why? Without doubt, life of itself is a futile probe into the fruitless unknown, yielding nothing.”

### ***Believer***

“It is a sad fact of life that the natural man, untouched by God, has all manners of evils within himself. But this is not a problem without a solution. God in Christ came to earth and

suffered and died to cure us of this comprehensive evil. We who believe in Christ do not have to vent our hatreds occasionally in senseless wars because we have been born again. He has taught and shown us how to love and to do good even to our enemies. Love is what makes **our** world go around and love holds us steady on the course despite all contrary winds.

“Let's face it. The Christian has the best of both worlds. He has peace and joy in this life despite its annoying uncertainties and troubles, and he has the assurance of eternal life with his Lord. In that glorious life there can be no illnesses, disappointments, tears, death. In that glorious life there will be no heartaches, no negatives of any kind. One day, and it may be very soon, the Lord shall call His people home to Him where they (I should say **we**) may enjoy the rest He has prepared for us for an eternity. This is a rock-solid hope that no person without Christ can possibly experience. No matter what happens in this life, there is always a better and brighter tomorrow.

“I, who have experienced much of this bittersweet life, have to say that even in this uncertain, transient existence the sweet outweighs the bitter when you trust in Christ. *Without a doubt, life is very much worth the living...*”

### **Forget about Leaving This Life**

Dying is such a final, fearsome concept. Life, without doubt, can be at times terribly confusing and tragic, but death is a horror living men and women have not yet encountered. The unknown horror is a worse fate for most persons than the present tragic confusion.

The thought of dying has plagued man all of his wretched existence since he fell so disastrously in the Garden of Eden. Perhaps that explains why, after Christ has conquered sin and death for us, we now tend to go to the other extreme. As believers we no longer fear death, but we have been hobbled by the fear so long that we feel we must now shout our defiance of it from the rooftops. We are trying to convince everyone (and ourselves?) that we have been set free.

The other day I talked to a friend who had been very close to death recently. It had been a long struggle and her wanting to talk about it was understandable. What bothered me was that she seemed to be fixated by the thought of dying and stated several times that she was ready to go, that she was not afraid of death, and had even made plans for her funeral. That was a good thing except for her obsession with dying. Her speech was peppered with how prepared she was to make her exit from this mortal plane. There was never a thought of what she planned to do with the life that God had just extended.

It seems that we who are yet walking this earth with needs and tragedies and heartaches all around us, should give our attention to living. The man or woman who is in need isn't particularly interested in my not being afraid to die; he or she needs help, not a commercial. If I just rejoice in my being able to look at death, eyeball-to-eyeball, that's rather selfish. Such a testimony may give some glory to God, but where is the further and greater glory that comes by my giving of myself – my LIVING self – to the many persons who are desperately in need of help, not a testimony?

As I get older, dying seems to be all around me. My friends and acquaintances are dropping off the planet with alarming frequency and life is no longer a leisurely stroll through the park. It is a paradox: despite having death stare at me from hooded eyes, I have learned late what I should have known all along: "Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is NOT its goal." Death may be the end of natural life but it is certainly not its goal. Getting closer to my own demise does not make me preoccupied with it. There is too much living to do.

The good we do makes for a quality life. We need to concentrate on reaching out to others. For instance, every Christian has the primary duty to pray earnestly and long for those who are burdened, stressed out and in any sort of need. We are obligated by the love of Christ to assuage the grief of others and mend hearts that have been broken. There are hungry bellies that God expects us to fill; there are sick bodies and minds that need to be tended to. We've got to do something about these desperate needs. If we don't, who will – Joe Doaks? Joe is in

dire straits himself. We can't depend on the "other fellow": there is a gaping hole out there that needs our good works to fill it. The burden is on us.

You may be like me. You have no special skill at counseling and you are not gifted with the word of wisdom. That by no means excuses either one of us. Everyone can pray. Everyone can lend a sympathetic ear. Everyone can give whatever he or she has of a natural or spiritual substance that will help fill a pressing need. As individuals of limited resources, we may not be able to meet another's lack completely. We are required, however, to give what we can to fill the demoralizing hole that has appeared in his life. In theory at least, if each one of us contributed to the various needs of others, there would be no needs left unfilled. As soon as the unsightly holes materialized in a sister's life, persons who love would each take of his or her meager resources and before long there would be no hole, no need. And we must remember that we too have needs that only our brothers and sisters can fill.

### **The Clock Is Ticking**

Perhaps you remember, or have heard of the famous grandfather clocks that used to grace the homes of many families in the 1800's. They had a certain mystique, an indefinable air of fate that was the result of a little bit of folklore and the fact that each swing of the large pendulum and each very audible "tick-tock" could be seen as sweeping the seconds away from a person's lifespan.

I have a fair-sized pendulum clock on my family room wall. It does not have anywhere near the size and grandeur of the grandfather clock of old, but it too measures out the time with each back and forth swing of its pendulum. There is no tick-tock or any other sound from this electric hybrid, but it visually metes out the seconds and the hours of my day and my life. The pendulum ceaselessly swings to and fro and the hands of the clock go round and round, remorselessly sweeping seconds and years from my life

With each imagined tick-tock of the clock and each very real back-and-forth swing of its pendulum I have lost two

seconds of my time on this earth, thus: "tick" and a swing of the pendulum to the right - one second is gone, and "tock" and a swing of the pendulum back to the left - two seconds have flown from my life. They are lost never to be retrieved. They cannot be recycled and used again. My life, your life, both are slowly and surely ticking away.

This could be very disturbing if I should concentrate on the damning inevitability of the back and forth swing of the tireless pendulum and the unceasing sweep of the hands of the clock. We all know we cannot stop the clock merely by wishing it would stop, and we are as certain as death and taxes that we can never still the back and forth doomsday swing of life's clock nor mute its sonorous tick-tock, tick-tock.

But perhaps you are as I am: you are saved; you are a child of God; you belong solely to Him. You know that, although up to now you have not made perfect use of the precious time allotted you, you are at present endeavoring to "redeem" (Eph. 5.16, Col. 4.5) or fully utilize the time you have left. God is not concerned with what you have done in the past, either of good or of evil, but what you are doing NOW. The past is gone, irretrievable, and the present is always with you. You can use the seconds that remain to you in positive pursuits; you can use them to please God and to do His will.

There is nothing you can do with the past – except to bring its sins and misdeeds to the cross. God alone can undo them and make them as if they never happened. And the beautiful thing is this: We have all this time remaining to us in which to throw ourselves into fully doing the will of God as it pertains to our own lives. Whether we have a few seconds, a few hours, a few days, months or years, it doesn't matter. All that matters is that we pursue the fulfillment of the will of God in whatever time is left. Then we can calmly look at the clock that is relentlessly pursuing its way to the end of our lives and say, "All is well."

But don't look too long at the clock. Raise your Ebenezer ("hitherto hath the Lord helped us") quickly and move on from there – the seconds are fleeting and you still have work to do!

Jesus Himself, whose primary mission in life was, ironically, to die, did not retreat to some secret hiding place to await His death. He went about doing good. He taught, He healed; He lifted souls out of the sins in which they were mired. At times He talked about His coming death, but only to prepare His disciples for the shock that their Master could actually leave them. He talked about it and then went about the task of fully living the life He had remaining to Him.

Paul talked about his own death also, but neither did he become so caught up with being ready to die that he forgot to live. On this earth living is the main obligation of man, not dying. If we live right we shall doubtless die right. On one occasion Paul revealed his indecision about whether he would rather live or die. In Philippians 1:21-24 he wrote,

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

Paul would have preferred to depart this life and be with Christ, but he knew it was not his time to go, so he suppressed his preference in order to live and to help his many parishioners. It was God's will for him at the time. If you are yet alive, this is God's will for you or you would not be here. Even if you should die tomorrow, it is clearly God's will for you to be at your post at this instant.

So do as Paul did: Concentrate on this life to live it to its fullest and you will be doing a good work. Moreover, when you live so fully, the afterlife will take care of itself. You won't have to wonder, "Will I go to heaven when I die?" Forget heaven and the afterlife. Live the life you have as God wants you to live it and heaven will be waiting for you!

### **Are You in Charge of Your Fate?**

I want to talk to you who believe in “fate,” that is, you believe you have no say in what your final destiny will be. Do

you realize that every move you make in the present dictates what God has forever seen and that you are in charge of your own fate? It's true that God has always known all things, including what you will do and what your final fate will be, nevertheless you are the one who determines what God has always known. You alone will be responsible for your end, whether it will be in the torment of hell or in the glories and joy of heaven.

It has been God's plan, from the time He formed the first rational creatures in His great economy, to give these creatures a choice of serving Him or not. There are two kinds of rational (reasoning) creatures: the angels and mankind. All angels were at first pure and sinless, but some of them chose to defect and follow their fallen leader, Lucifer, now known as Satan.

Mankind, represented by Adam, also failed his test and since that time has been suffering the results of his sin. Despite God's full foreknowledge that Adam would disobey Him in the Garden, Adam was not predestined to sin. What God foresaw was what Adam caused God to see. This is difficult for our limited minds to assimilate, but perhaps the following section will help you-

### Controlling Your Future

As each person writes on the slate of his lifetime (meaning the deeds he commits), he can't know what he will write in a day, a month or a year from the present. The future is hidden from him. He knows what he has written in the past, but even the past is not an item that he can perceive once he leaves it. That is, the writer cannot discern the past by any of the five physical senses. The effects of the past may linger long, but the past itself is a discarded commodity – for him, not God – and no longer exists. As far as rewriting the past is concerned, his slate is blank except for what he is currently writing, and once he writes a deed, it is gone forever and he can never grasp it again, alter it, nor relive it.

The eternal God fills the sphere of eternity and is watching over each individual's slate. God can see, from the beginning

(because eternity is the eternal **Now**, covering all of time — past, present and future) what the individual is writing at every moment. God sees the person's past actions constantly (until He blots out those sinful deeds that are covered by the blood of Christ), He sees the person's present deeds and He sees what that person will write in the future. His future deeds are there before God, as clearly seen as his present actions. It is all in the eternal Present.

It is all one with God: Past, present, and future are occurring simultaneously. But we must remember: What God sees as our future actions are always moves that we are making in what we call the present. We are continually writing our future in the only operable time frame we have. The present is very important to us. The present is all we shall ever have. In a sense, it constitutes our future because the future we look forward to now will only be the present when we get to it. The future is what God sees always in the eternal present. But **WE DETERMINE NOW, AT EVERY CROOK OF OUR FINGER, WHAT IT IS THAT GOD SEES BEFOREHAND.**

If we do good or evil, God, who is overshadowing the slate of time from beginning to end, sees the single act, whether it be in the dawn of our accountability or in the gray twilight of life. Viewing the situation from God's vantage point, we cannot factually say that He *saw* the future from the past. He *is seeing* it from eternity's timeless Present.

The fact is that no one today is predestined to his or her fate. If you go to hell, it will be entirely your fault. God has extended His grace to you time after time and you have – time after time – rejected Him.

Forget the silly notion that you are predestined to do anything. Make your calling and election sure and turn to Him now.

### **More on Determining Your Own Fate**

The believer in God and the atheist are alike in that there is a certain point in the postulation of the origin of all things beyond which they, the believer and the atheist, are unable to go.

For the atheist the point is this: From where did the primordial or very first matter, regardless of how infinitesimal, come? What placed it there – and where is “there”? Space was not yet formed. And who or what set in motion the unbelievably complicated chain of events resulting in the formation of all matter as we know it?

The believer has no difficulties with these questions. He knows that his God created everything from nothing although exactly in what way God did it is a debatable topic. But however He did it, it was God who was “in the beginning” orchestrating the entire creative melody. Furthermore, the believer can go a step beyond the existence of the first matter. The believer is certain that all matter was created by God. But at that point even the staunchest believer has reached a blank wall. Who created God? But that is actually not a valid question for us: we know God was not created. He had no beginning and He will have no end. God simply IS.

The atheist sneers incredulously, “Hmph! How can that be – a being who has no beginning? Everybody knows that all creatures and matter have a beginning. They didn’t just exist from forever.”

Ah, that’s just the point. God is not a creature. All creatures were created in the beginning of their line and the line has since propagated itself (angels excepted). God was not created. As He said in Ex. 3.14b, “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” The I AM is an all-embracing term, covering all of time in the eternal present and covering all situations and possibilities and doing away with all accidental happenings. Many things happen that are accidental or chance with us, but they didn’t sneak up on God. He knew from forever that whatever *has happened*, or *is happening* now or *will happen* in the future, *would happen*.

Read that last sentence again. God is a solid imperturbable Rock that is not fazed in the slightest by wind, fire, flood, death or – worst of all – the imminent doom of mankind. When He realized that man was destined for an eternity of torment in hell by bucking against the righteous law of God, God had a plan of

salvation for him. And when did God realize man's danger and when did God devise a plan to save him? Why, of course, from an eternity ago.

If you are not a child of God or think there is no God, your course is irrevocably set for hell – and God knows that too. But you have the power to alter the unalterable. You have the power to make God see that you will be with Him in heaven just by what you do now. You can determine God's foreknowledge of you by the decisions you make and the actions you take NOW. You had better run quickly to Him; you haven't much time left.

### **Living Is All That Matters**

After looking at life from various angles, including the perspective of the Word of God, I have to agree with Solomon:

“11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd. 12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

13 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.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment,  
including every hidden thing,  
whether it is good or evil.”

Ecc. 12:11-14

To the above scripture I want to add the words of a post I wrote June 25, 2005. The post and the scripture pretty well sum up how we should handle this hot potato called life:

“This is not the best of times for me. My older sister passed away yesterday. Oh yes, she was eighty-nine years old, she was critically ill and we all knew she was going to leave us, but knowing a fact and then facing it head-on are two different things. I miss her even though we lived in different states and saw one

another infrequently. The missing comes in knowing she is totally gone from my life; she will nevermore be a living part of it.

“But that’s the beauty of knowing Christ. We can all do as my sister did. While she was living and alert she served the Lord faithfully. It is incumbent on us, the living, to serve Him and trust Him and live for Him. Growing old does not alter His love nor His power. Dying doesn’t diminish His capacity to heal and deliver in any way He deems advisable. Growing old and dying mean only that God can keep you through old age and He can keep you as you cross the Great Divide into life that will last forever.”

All I can add to that is that God is good, so very good in this present life... come hell, flood, earthquake, flood, sickness or death. What a gracious, loving God we serve who can overlook our sins and our hatefulness and grant us the privilege of determining our own fate!

Come to Him now while the door is still open; it will soon shut for you irrevocably.





