

September 1, 2004

Pastor Jerry Shirley
Grace Baptist Church
3770 N. Water St.
Decatur, IL 62526

Dear Pastor Shirley:

We had a great month taking a working vacation this year. The schedule of being gone every weekend has kept us from taking a vacation in four years. We left on Monday July 28th and went to Georgia to visit Sarah's two sisters, a brother and then on to Tennessee to see a cousin, then to Cincinnati on Thursday spending the evening with one of our preacher boys at Kings Mill Baptist Church, then to Akron where we preached on Sunday Morning for Brother Phil Hulin at Grace Baptist Church and Sunday night for Brother Butterfield at Open Door Baptist Church. Please ask your church to be in prayer for Brother Hulin as he has bladder cancer. I know he and Vera will greatly appreciate your prayers. Then we went to Sturgis, Michigan for a preachers meeting on Thursday, and what a blessing. We stayed there until Sunday and preached for Brother Paul Delmark at Sturgis Baptist Church. He too was saved in our church at Youngstown, He just celebrated 24 years there as the founding pastor. We finally got home, there's no place like home. I preached at our home church the following two Sundays.

I pray your summer has been a good one and your attendance has been up, souls saved and many victories won. I feel our world is really in a battle, we face so many issues so we constantly need to be in prayer and in touch with God. Jesus said to "watch and pray". Ephesians 6 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of god that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand."

Pray for Sarah and I as we travel. Pray for our health. (Sarah is doing great, thanks to all your prayers). We do thank you for all your prayers and financial support.

Because of His Grace,
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend

ENCOURAGEMENT

September 1, 2004

Good Morning Friend,

Daniel Webster once stated that the most awesome thought he ever had was the realization that he would one day stand before God to give an account of his life. In deed this truth is taught in the Word....

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:10)

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Romans 14:12)

YES! YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD.

It is an appointment that you cannot break nor postpone. In God's timing, you and I will individually stand before Him. Let's begin to live with an increased awareness of that day. We are surrounded by people who have no realization of life beyond death. Glen Drake said, The world has forgotten in its concern with the left and the right, that there is an above and a below. We are passing through the earthly scene only briefly. Stuart Hamblen wrote these lyrics... This troubled world is not my final home.

But does today matter? It matters greatly. This day is preparation for that day. Whether you are young or old, today is building toward tomorrow and toward the ultimate Tomorrow, which will be an eternity with Jesus in His heaven.

MAKE THIS DAY A POSITIVE PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY.

Today and every day, God has something for you to do. Whether you are young or old, we are to be about His work. God's word to the young is this....Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, (Eccl.12:1)

Similarly Paul wrote to His young colleague, Timothy, Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.(I Timothy 4:12) God has something for all of us **TO BE AND TO DO** as long as we are alive. I am impressed that God called Moses to the greatest and most challenging ministry of his life when he was eighty years old (Exodus 3-4) We need to always have our ears open to the voice of God.

GOD' S PROMISES ARE FOR YOU TODAY AND RIGHT ON THROUGH OLD AGE.

In Isaiah 46, He speaks to His people... to all of His people and says, Harken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear ; even I will carry and will deliver you (verses3-4)

He has been working in us in the past and He promises to do so in the future.... right up through your old age. If you are already there, that promise is still for you, If you are far from old age, it is a promise you can carry today and everyday well into old age. Look at the specific promises in the text...

- I will carry you. In Isaiah 40:11, He tells us where and how He carries us. It says that He carries us close to His heart.... not at a distance but right up close to His heart. Believe it because it is true. You are so special to Him.

- I will sustain you. Even in the heaviest and darkest times the entire nature of his being will steady you, will sustain you, will see you through.
- I will rescue you. In other words, nothing will destroy you. He is always on a 'rescue operation' on your behalf and mine. You may have tough times, severities, and a lot more. But YOU, the core you, cannot be damaged or destroyed, He has promised to rescue you. When we get to heaven, you and I will see the full picture and we will rehearse to one another His repeated 'rescues' on our behalf.

Be Encouraged
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend