

# Half-Time, Making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Life Count - Part 1

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## Introduction:

A. Most of us are old enough to be thinking how to make the second part of life count.

1. At age 35 I got a birthday card from someone saying, "Congratulations, you're half way there."
2. What would it take to make the second half of my life count?
3. What kind of people made it and what kind did not?
  - a. In the OT only 15% finished well.
  - b. A book called *Finishing Strong* says only 1 out of 10 finish well.
  - c. For the last 20 years I have been challenged to help others to finish well.

I. Today let's begin this topic.

A. Ageing is not as bad as it was before.

1. In 1930 the average life span was 50.
2. Today it is in that 70s.
3. We used to consider retirement after 50.
4. Now we retire later because of improved health.
5. We have rejected the old idea of ageing, which is disengagement.
6. We have options that previous generation didn't have.

B. People just aren't ready to retire.

1. How many think 60 is old?
2. How about 70?
3. How about 80?
4. People today do not consider themselves old until after 75.
5. Life is moving along fast.

6. Kids go off to college as kids and come back adults.
7. A book called *Half Time* calls the second half what wins the game.
8. If someone gave you the option of doubling a penny every day or taking one million dollars now what would you take?
  - a. Doubling the penny would earn greater returns later in life.
  - b. The last 20% of time would put the penny over 5 million dollars.
  - c. After 50 we have far more wisdom and potential to help others.
  - d. When I turned 40 I was excited and even more so at 50.

C. Moses wrote one Psalm in the second half of his life.

1. Psalm 90 that encourages us to number our days.
2. God is eternal yet we are like grass.
3. We are prone to sin and God sees it all.
4. Life is filled with trouble and sorrow.
5. Numbering our days gives us wisdom. (vs 12)
6. It is good to ask God to make us joyful. (vs 14)
7. We want our lives to count.
8. God desires that we live purposely, fruitfully, and paradoxically.

II. Review.

A. The first stage is the learning age.

1. Kids are saturated by many things.
2. Teens push the limits.
3. Twenties look for someone living out the values they consider important.
  - a. Head hunters often ask candidates about their heroes.
  - b. You can be the hero to someone.

B. The second stage is the pressured age.

1. The thirties have jobs, marriage, kids, etc.

2. In the military I made lieutenant but was not respected until I made captain.
3. People expect much from you in your 30s.
4. Your focus narrows in the 30s because you want to be respected.
5. Peer review is important.
6. Production is important.
7. Sometimes you make bad decisions by overworking, etc.
8. In the 40s competitors become peers.
9. We concentrate on the bottom line.
10. We look for feedback to know our lives are worth commending to others.
11. Circumstances will come and go but our response will make or break us.
12. We look for escape from difficulty but we need others to help us obey God to the end.
13. A woman missionary quit on her responsibilities and I could only help her husband to obey God in the midst of his difficulty.
14. In the 40s we again ask, "Why am I here?"
  - a. Now we have more data.
  - b. It is now to have purposeful, meaningful relationships.
  - c. We begin to see how God uses us in our uniqueness.
  - d. The 40 is the middle of the tunnel and there is little light.
  - e. There is more light in the past than in the future at this stage.
  - f. Many moms find more time in the 40s and look around to feel that everyone else is ahead of them, but it's not true.
  - g. In time more light enters the life of people in the 40s.
  - h. Now we have more targeted learning.
  - i. Some doctors want to change professions in the 40s but God could use them greater in their current professions if they would let him.
  - j. God wants to help us rethink life.
  - k. Some experience midlife meltdown.

1. Some learn God's perspective on their lives.
15. In the 50s we look for places to invest.
- a. We become others oriented.
  - b. We become more generous.
  - c. I met some that only talk about the past.
  - d. Mentors are essential to those who finish well.

C. The third stage of life is important.

1. The story of our lives becomes evident.
  - a. We write our own personal stories here; family, job, etc.
  - b. The cultural story is going on.
  - c. God's story is being written.
    1. God has not missed one day.
    2. God started before we were born.
    3. God has everything under control. (Ephesians 1:9-10)
  - d. Some people get consumed with their own stories and miss God's larger story.
2. The film *Henry the Fifth* has a great scene where at the battle of Agincore the British are tired. Suddenly the French appear. (The speaker shows the film clip here.)
  - a. It seems the French galvanize the British to fight with renewed vigor.
  - b. Keeping connected to the larger story of our lives is the key to finishing strong.
  - c. The greater story is the story God is writing in our lives.