

## Life Is Like a Book

Forrest Gump is famous for saying, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get." I am trying to be like Forrest but while in quarantine I thought about a book Hope brought me. At first, I wasn't really interested in reading, due to not feeling well. But after a day or two that book sounded better. Picking it up I saw it was around five hundred pages in length and the print was fairly small. Not the kind of small you see on those commercials where you need a magnifying glass but there were many words on each page.

After a while I got to reading. The first day I read around thirty pages. I have a tendency after every reading to take the number of pages I have read and compare it to how much is left. Now thirty pages compared to 500 pages isn't much and can be discouraging because it was going to take some time and effort to read this book. The next few days I accelerated my pace as I got more into the story line.

I found a few pages were blank, those serving as chapter breaks, but they were still counted as pages in the book. There were also a few pictures of people and places so as to give one a sense of who they were reading about. For some reason the pages started turning faster, one hundred was quickly followed by 200 and then 300. Comparing my pages read with pages yet to be read tells me I am going to finish this book in a "little while." I already know how the book ends because of the title and the book is about a real person-a real event. I don't know all the particulars about how the ending occurs but I know the ending.

I thought about life in general and how it is like a book. The first days seem to go slowly. As a child waiting until tomorrow or next week was like waiting forever. By itself one page isn't very thick but placed with 20 other pages you see a difference. So, it is with life, one day doesn't seem very important but when placed with 30 or 300 days it makes a difference. Also, each page is a bridge between the pages before and after it. Have

you ever missed a page while reading? We tend to be loss and realize something is wrong. Only when we turn back a page or two can we make heads or tails about the story. Our days are not independent of each other but a bridge from the past to the future. We must be in the present to get to the future. Some folks want to miss pages but that doesn't tend to work very well.

Even our "blank pages" have a purpose. I tend to like blank pages as they make me feel like I am reading faster. In life there are no true "blank pages" but there are times we might feel like we are not doing much but we need to relax and enjoy our place in our book.

Just like a book we tend to have chapter breaks in our lives. The leaving home and going out into the world break, the getting married and having a family chapter, followed by the paying the bills chapter, and then the looking forward to grandchildren chapter.

There are certain events burned into our memory. We can still see the day we got married, or the birth of our children. Events like 9/11 where we remember the place, and time we were doing when we heard the first news of The World Trade Towers. There are certain conversations we remembers every word spoken. Important events such as these will always be with us.

As I am looking at this book, I realize I am closer to the end than the beginning. In some ways it seems like the pages are turning faster than at the beginning. I can relate to Job's words, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6a) Unlike Job, I do have hope in better days. We know how the book of life ends as we all will finish and then be judged. We will be judged according to God's word. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48)

We are not simply passive readers in our book of life as we get to write the words, the lines, and the chapters. We get to determine the ending of our

book. We can hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Matthew 25:21) We never know how long our book will be or when the last chapter will end, but we know it is coming. – Dennis Tucker