

Sayings from Mom

Our mom would be ninety-one today, August 16th. I was thinking about her and some of the things she would say. Therefore, this article is “Sayings from Mom.”

“Nothing is so Bad it Can’t Be Worse” usually this was said when something disappointing happened. Getting an F on a test or the death of a close friend or relative, being made fun of, or not being popular and a host of other issues in life. I remember thinking, I don’t see how things can get worse but they probably will. However, the trials and disappointments of life are just a part of living in this world. No matter what trial you are going through, others have worse problems. As Solomon said, **“there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecc. 1.9b-10).**

Many of our disappointments as we grow are not really important and time gives us a different perspective of life. Failure is not the worst thing in life, not trying and giving up is a bigger problem. Being left out of the “in crowd” in school is a blessing at times. Death of a love one is not the worst thing that can happen. Being lost for eternity is about as bad as it can get.

The last few years mom would talk about what she used to be able to do and lament the fact her body was no longer working as she wanted. She would say, **“Those were used to days.”** She used to carry two 5-gallon buckets of water up a hill in order to wash clothes with an old fashion washing machine and wring the clothes out by hand. Not to mention the canning of green beans, beats, and other things on a wood stove in a house without running water or air conditioning. She worked on the fence with us and helped gather fire wood.

We are all having or going to have our “used to days.” Our bodies are temporary as we and all of us are growing older. **“So, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalms 90:12).** Our opportunities to teach the Gospel to the lost and do good is limited by time. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those

who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

But “used to days” can also be good if we are talking about the sins we used to commit. “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 ***And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.***” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, emphasis mine D.T). Many of those brethren at Corinth were bad sinners but those were “used to days” now they were saints in the Lord’s body. They are things we need to leave behind.

At times we had concerns about mom and she would say, “**Don’t worry about me, I will be alright.**” I remember joking with her saying we will put that on her tombstone. There were times mom wasn’t alright, climbing on a chair to get something off the top shelf, or out cutting weeds with a hoe, or trying to move heavy rocks. It was hard her to realize somethings were dangerous for her.

The same can be said about people. Many think they can sin against God and still be “alright” but it is never alright. Some will be lost because they procrastinate obeying the Gospel. “**Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.**” (James 4:13-17). I wonder how many people will be lost because they were too busy to be saved? Some think their doctrine is alright but never take the time to see if it is harmony with the Bible.

We need to examine ourselves to make sure we are “alright” with God.

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.” (2 Corinthians 13:5). A person who is obedient to the Gospel of Christ, and walking in the light, is truly “alright” so we don’t worry about them. **“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Revelation 14:13).**

Make sure you are living so as to be right with God. – Dennis Tucker