



# Reflections on Aging in Biblical Wisdom



# Proverbs 16:31

Gray hair is a crown of glory;  
it is gained in a righteous life.

# Principle 1

***Value your maturity.***

# Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength,  
but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

# Principle 2

***Don't envy youth.***

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

11:7 Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. 8 So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity. 9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. 10 Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, 3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, 4 and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

5 they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— 6 before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.



# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

## Themes

- Enjoy life ***fully***.
  - 11:7 Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.
  - 11:9a Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes.
  - 11:10 Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

## Themes

- Enjoy life ***in the fear of the Lord***.
  - 11:9b But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.
  - 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

## Themes

- Enjoy life ***as long as you can***.
  - 11:8 So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

## Themes

- Enjoy life ***as long as you can***.
  - 12:1b before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, 3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, 4 and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—5a they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails,

# Proverbs 11:7-12:7

## Themes

- Enjoy life ***as long as you can.***
  - 12:5b because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— 6 before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

# Principle 3

***As much as you can, continue to enjoy life in wisdom.***

# Proverbs 4:1-4

1 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, 2 for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. 3 When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live."

(See also Proverbs 1:8ff; 2:1ff; 3:1ff; 3:21ff; 4:10ff; 4:20ff; 5:1ff; 5:7ff; 6:20ff; 7:1ff; 7:24ff; 8:32ff.)

# Proverbs 17:6

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers.



# Principle 4

***Share the wisdom that God has given you.***

# Summary

- ***Value your maturity.***
- ***Don't envy youth.***
- ***Enjoy life.***
- ***Share wisdom.***