

Daniel 12:13

Daniel 12:13 “But as for you, go your way to the end (of your life); then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

Daniel was struggling to make sense of the prophecy that an angel had delivered to him – a prophecy concerning the rise and fall of empires, and of the inauguration of God’s everlasting kingdom (Daniel 11:1 – 12:4). The angel told Daniel that many details would be understood only by those living at the end of this age (Daniel 12:8-10).

What then was Daniel to do in the meantime? He was by this time a senior citizen, well into his eighties. The angel’s reply in verse 13 provides him sufficient information to live a meaningful and hopeful life. And this information is applicable to all of us seniors who have entrusted ourselves to the God of the Bible, and to His Son Jesus Christ. It contains three great promises, and one practical command. Let us begin with the promises, since they form the basis for the command.

“Then you will enter into rest.” The “then” refers to Daniel’s physical death, the end of his mortal life. Daniel’s was not going to be among those who lived to see the coming of King Messiah. Nevertheless, he could look forward to “entering into rest” after he died. This rest is not a state of unconsciousness (sometimes called “soul-sleep”), but rather relief from the struggles and anxieties of this life. Daniel would have been familiar with God’s promise in Isaiah 57:

*Isaiah 57:1 The righteous man perishes . . . (He) is taken away from evil,
2 he enters into peace; they rest in their beds, each one who walked
in his upright way.*



Centuries later, the apostle John heard a similar promise concerning believers in Christ who die before His return:

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, the moment you pass from this life you will be consciously in His presence – and your struggles with sin and Satan and his world-system will be over. Never again will you have to battle against your besetting sins. Never again will you have to fight against the attacks of God's enemy. This alone would be an amazing relief! But better still, you will "be at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). The promise that Jesus made to the thief who hung dying on his cross applies to you: "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Rest indeed!

"(Then you will) rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age." In this statement, God makes Daniel two additional promises. The first promise is that he will "rise again." Daniel will share in the promise God made earlier in Daniel 12 to belong to Him through faith in His promise:

12:2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Our resurrected bodies will be like Jesus' resurrected body, and thus share in His radiant glory.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body



of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

After God raises Daniel from the dead, He will give him his “allotted portion.” “Portion” refers to an inheritance, to a reward. God does not tell Daniel what his reward will be, but the New Testament sheds light on the rich compensation God will give believers for their service in this life. It includes seeing the full impact of our service, being praised by God for our faithfulness and entering fully into His joy, and receiving honored roles in His eternal kingdom. How amazing that God not only pays the full penalty of our sins so that we may enter into His kingdom, but that He also showers us with reward for our service! Truly, this is grace upon grace!

In light of these promises concerning the future, God gives Daniel a simple command: *“But as for you, go your way to the end (of your life).”* Daniel would have understood this to mean not: “Go do whatever you want to do,” but rather: “Go on living faithfully for Me.” For Daniel in his old age, this involved continuing to pray regularly to God, continuing to serve as a government administrator, and continuing to preserve and pass on the revelations that God had given him.

As senior citizens, we may retire from our careers, but we don’t retire from following Jesus. Like Daniel, we can continue to “go our way,” knowing that we still have meaningful service to render before we go to our rest, our resurrection, and our reward! J. I. Packer’s exhortation to us is right on the money:

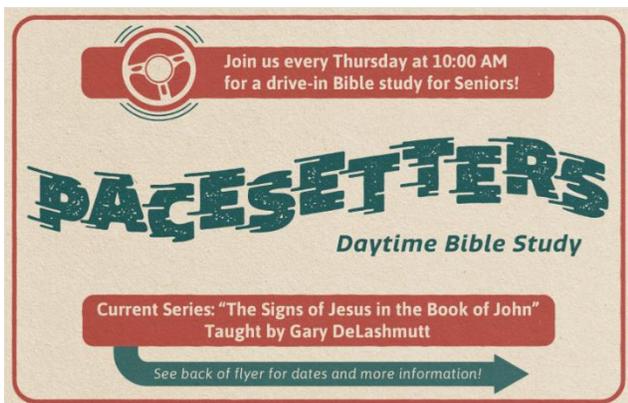
“Ask God . . . how you might do the best with what you have got and model in your own person the mobilizing of the over-65’s to continue giving all they can for as long as they can to contribute to the . . . ministry that goes on within (and through) God’s flock . . . Each of us who is willing will be found to have a great deal to give for some mode of . . . ministry that can in practice be invaluable.”*

* J. I. Packer, *Finishing Our Course with Joy*, (Crossway Books, 2014), pp. 98,99.



Lord Jesus, thank You for the rich future you have promised us. Help us to grow in our eager anticipation of Your rest, resurrection and reward. In the meantime, Lord, thank You for the significance of our remaining time in this life. Help us today to “go our way” – to continue to learn from You and serve You wherever You have placed us.

**Come hear Gary in person at our Pacesetters Drive-in Bible Study!
10AM Thursdays at Dwell Main Campus**



Join us every Thursday at 10:00 AM
for a drive-in Bible study for Seniors!

PACESETTERS
Daytime Bible Study

Current Series: "The Signs of Jesus in the Book of John"
Taught by Gary DeLashmutt

See back of flyer for dates and more information!



Tune in
107.3 FM

Every Thursday, light drizzle or shine!

Please stay in the area of your vehicle and maintain social distancing.

6ft

1394 Community Park Drive
Drive-in located in the parking lot west of our Main Campus building

Stage
Restrooms
Main Campus

270
Cleveland Ave

Community Park Drive

Contact us: www.xenos.org/pacesetters
Pacesetters@dwellcc.org • (614) 823-6510 x 1777