

ARE YOU PREPARING FOR “THE GOLDEN YEARS”?

By Nino Boezio

The “Golden Years” is a label often attached to the period following retirement.

It’s to represent a joyous and fun time where stress is also diminished. One no longer has to run around in the “rat race” of the workforce, with all of its latent demands.

Expenses are reduced because there is less need for work-related travel. Family expenses from raising a family are gone.

There is more opportunity for care-free and personal travel, limited only by the extent of one’s personal savings and the retirement pension available. A person can engage in more physical pursuits such as playing golf or some other sport.

We often see advertising directed towards retirement. The persons pictured are smiling (actually beaming with excitement), perhaps at a beach or a dock, enjoying a wide range of outdoor activities.

The Golden Years are simply WONDERFUL!

But I received a shock to this whole “Golden Years” mantra a number of years ago.

My father was dying in the hospital, at the age of 80. I missed work and some industry meetings because of it. When someone asked me why I was absent, I mentioned how my father had been quite sick and recently died.

On this occasion, this normally mild-manner man became very vocal. He expressed grief and exhibited severe anger towards this “Golden Years” concept. He repeated his rant on several other occasions when I saw him again. It deeply bothered him.

He had retired parents who eventually became ill and died. This man said this golden years’ concept is rather misleading. The golden years may typically run from age 65 to age 75, and it’s all downhill from there. In the course of time, the older person typically faces declining health, extended periods in the hospital, and it just keeps getting worse. It eventually leads to death.

I understood his animosity towards the “Golden Years” concept. It clouds the ultimate fate of all human beings. It obscures the fact that we will all be in physical decline.

It conveys the impression that life in retirement is all fun and frolic -- with no pain. There is little to no discussion given to death as though the golden years *will never end*.

Many people work hard in order to achieve a comfortable and care-free retirement. Some may not be able to financially afford retirement completely. But regardless of where one may sit in the retirement years, it should bring death to our attention.

Atheists like to argue that there is no God and no afterlife, and they seem to be very proud of their claim. But such reasoning doesn't add up. If life is simply about going to school, working, raising a family and then getting old and retiring, there's something missing in the whole equation. The memories we develop are just not enough.

We should develop a focus of what our life will amount to, after we cease to live.

God and Jesus Christ put a spotlight on what happens to us after this life. What we can achieve will truly be the *Golden Years*, not a potential decade of fun and leisure after retirement, followed by declining health afterwards.

The sooner we begin to examine and understand what the true *Golden Years* are and what we can do to achieve them, the more golden they will become.

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