

From the Family Room

*The Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL*

May 18, 2015



Sunrise, Sunset

*Is this the little girl I carried? Is this the little boy at play?
I don't remember growing older. When did they?
When did she get to be a beauty? When did he get to be so tall?
Wasn't it yesterday when they were small?
Sunrise, sunset, sunrise, sunset. Swiftly flow the days.
Seedlings turn overnight to sunflowers. Blossoming even as we gaze.
Sunrise, sunset, Sunrise, sunset. Swiftly fly the years.
One season following another laden with happiness and tears.*

The lyrics listed above are the opening words of the song sung at the wedding ceremony of Tzeitel and Motel in "The Fiddler on the Roof." These lyrics express the emotions of their parents and other adults from their village in attendance at the wedding.

I share those emotions as I look at the pictures of the members of the Class of '15 from our spiritual family – our village – here at Creekwood. I look at the picture of Sydney and wonder ***is this the little girl I carried?*** I see the pictures of Jon Tyler and Jon David and wonder ***are these the little boys at play?***

These are the emotions Freda and I also feel as our physical family grows and changes. It was only a few sunrises and sunsets ago that Freda and I were married. Some of you were at our wedding that sunny June day in 1971. Just a few days ago our sons were newborns. Now our grandsons are taking center stage. I'm sure many of you share these feelings. ***Swiftly fly the years.***

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. James 4:14b

James described the brevity of life in the scripture written above. How can we as parents and grandparents make the most of the short-lived time we have with our children in the home? What can we as mentors in the church family do to teach our children during the swiftly flowing days when they are most easily taught? Each moment, each day is valuable. ***What words of wisdom can we give them? How can we help to ease their way?***

Tim Elmore recently posted a blog in which he listed **five messages children need to hear in the first decade of their life.** These are : ***1. You are loved; 2. You are unique; 3. You have gifts; 4. You are safe; 5. You are valuable.***

He also listed **five messages every adolescent must understand before leaving home.** These are: ***1. Life is difficult; 2. You are not in control; 3. You are not that important; 4. You are going to die; 5. Your life is not about you.*** When these messages are understood and believed at the proper age, our children can confidently launch into the future and achieve success in their life. They will be motivated by a meaningful purpose in life. They will not be so fragile as to be shattered with their first failed effort. They will not experience debilitating fear and anxiety in the face of daily challenges.

The same messages must be heard and understood by Christians as we mature from spiritual babes who have been born again to mature disciples who have allowed Christ to become the Lord of their life. We must believe that: ***1. I am loved unconditionally – John 3:16; 2. I am unique – Romans 12:4; 3. I have gifts – Romans 12 6-8; I Corinthians 12:7; 4. I am safe – Psalms 91:4; 5. I am valuable – I Corinthians 6:20.*** Knowledge of these messages gives us confidence and security in our faith. In addition, we must understand that life will not always be a stroll through a rose garden. We must also believe that: ***1. Life is difficult – James 1:2-4; 2. I am not in control – I Chronicles 29:10-12; Job 1:21-22; 3. I am not that important in the big picture of the world – Psalms 103:14-16; 4. I am going to die – Ecclesiastes 8:8; Hebrews 9:27; 5. My life is not about me – Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:3-7.***

One awesome day in the future, there will be no more sunrise, sunset. No one will grow old. We will enjoy just one eternal day laden with happiness but with no tears as we live with Christ and God in Heaven for eternity. Take advantage of your precious opportunities this week to love, teach, and mentor our young.

RICKY