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# *Psalm 71*

*Finishing Well*



**76 million Baby Boomers (born  
1944-1964) currently age 56 to 76**





82 million Gen X-ers (born 1965-1979) currently age 41 to 55





**10,000 people will turn 65 every  
day for the next 20 years**





**56% of Americans fully retire  
before the age of 65**





**Average life expectancy in the  
United States is 78.6 years**





Many Americans are spending 20%  
of their lives in retirement





**In 2015 there were 72,000  
Americans age 100 or older**





**FINISHING LIFE**  
**IS INEVITABLE**







## **PSALM 90:12 (NIV)**

Teach us to number our days; that  
we may gain a heart of wisdom.



**FINISHING WELL  
IS A CHOICE**







## **PSALM 90:10 (NIV)**

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.





## PSALM 39:4-7 (NLT)

[4] LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is. [5] You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.” [6] We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. [7] And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you.





## **PSALM 71:20 (NIV)**

Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.



- [1] In you, LORD, I have taken refuge...
- [2] ... rescue me and deliver me...save me
- [6] I have relied on you ... I will ever praise you
- [7] ...you are my strong refuge
- [8] My mouth is filled with your praise
- [12] Do not be far from me, my God
- [14] ...I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.
- [15] My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds
- [16] I will come and proclaim your mighty acts
- [17] ...I declare your marvelous deeds
- [20] ...you will restore my life again
- [21] You will increase my honor and comfort me once more
- [22] I will praise you with the harp ... I will sing praise to you
- [23] My lips will shout for joy...
- [24] My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long



**FINISHING WELL**  
**BLESSES OTHERS**





## **ECCLESIASTES 12:4 (NLT)**

Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.





## **Psalm 71:18 (NIV)**

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.



When you don't believe in heaven to come and you are not content in the glory of Christ now, you will seek the kind of retirement that the world seeks. But what a strange reward for a Christian to set his sights on! Twenty years of leisure while living in the midst of the Last Days of infinite consequence for millions of people who need Christ. What a tragic way to finish the last mile before entering the presence of the king who finished his last mile so differently!

John Piper



A black and white photograph of an hourglass, showing sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the sand flow creating a sense of time passing.

## REFLECT / DISCUSS

What is one thing you can do now at your life stage to prepare to finish well?

How has this message impacted your picture of retirement and aging?