

LET GOD MAKE YOUR RETIREMENT A RE-FIREMENT

We've all seen the ads – a tanned, gray-haired couple laughing as they walk the beach arm in arm.

Billions of dollars are invested every year by the travel industry, financial services companies, and other organizations to instill these carefree images in our minds, and to convince us that when we reach a certain age, we can have the “good life we deserve.”

But with all the emphasis that our culture puts on retirement, isn't it interesting that the Bible is virtually silent on the subject? Instead, the Bible paints a very different picture of what life can be like in “the golden years” - encouraging believers to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1). Rather than retire (which the dictionary defines as “withdrawal”), God calls us to re-fire, fanning the flames of our love for Him, for people, and for service in His kingdom.

The basic question every follower of Christ must come to terms with is this: Why am I here? One day, each of us will stand before the Lord to give an account of how we used the time and financial resources He entrusted to us (2 Corinthians 5:10). But what will we say to the Lord about the last 20-25 years of our life? That we spent it improving our golf game, finding new restaurants offering senior discounts, and collecting postcards on our vacations? Or is God offering us something much more purposeful and meaningful? Is He calling us to spend our life in a way that will make a lasting difference in the world for the cause of Christ?

Consider Moses, who followed God's call at age 80 – and continued serving as a judge and leader until he was 120. Or look at more recent examples such as Mother Teresa who served the poor until her death at age 87, or Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright, preparing evangelistic materials while hooked up to an oxygen machine until he died at age 81.

Besides our time, we can also honor God with our retirement money, both during and after our lifetime. For example, did you know that the government can take up to 70 percent of your retirement savings upon your death because of double taxation (income tax plus a sizeable estate tax)? In other words, your heirs may only receive approximately 30 cents on the dollar from your IRA funds. But by using other assets to benefit your children, and designating a ministry such as City Impact as the beneficiary of your IRA, you can avoid the double tax and free up those funds to extend your impact with City Impact at minimal cost to your family.



- I would like more information about how to avoid the “double tax” on my retirement assets.
- I am interested in including City Impact in my Will or Estate Plan.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

Reply with envelope or contact Mike Friend at 402-477-8080 or askmike@cityimpact.org