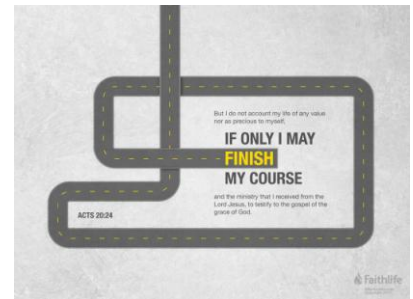


Devotion by Karen Ho at the Wednesday Prayer Meeting on Feb 28, 2018.

Do Not Waste Your Retirement

Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.



I went to lunch with my former KP friends (most retired, a few not) yesterday (Jan 16, 2018). This was our second gathering.

The first time was in November 2016. It was because most of us retired last year and someone suggested we should meet for lunch. It was lots of excitement and happiness in seeing one another after some 20 plus years.

This year we met at the same place with the same people. However, I felt somewhat different than last time. For a while, their conversations were surrounding vacations, cruises, their hobbies and enjoying life. I felt sorry for them that they do not know there is life after death. They just focus on what enjoyment they can get while they are still healthy and wealthy. God knows how much I wish they could come to the Lord!

As I woke up the next day, while in bed, I thought about the question one of them asked me, "How do you spend your time?". It took me a while to answer him. I told him I go to Bible study on Wednesdays and Helping Hands on Thursdays. And the other time, I do things around the house and do things for church. Now, I wish I had told him that I plan fellowship meetings and extended an invitation to him because he is the only one who lives in San Ramon and is retired. Anyway, I pray that God will continue to give me chances.

As I was still feeling a little depressed, God gave me an encouragement this morning (the next morning). Pastor John Piper posted "Don't Waste Your Retirement. There are no sunset years in the Christian life. Until the day you die you have a race to run." He was preaching to some college students in Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona last year October. The passage was from Acts 20: 22-24.

In that passage, Paul told me as a Christian, I have to finish the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus and to remain on the course at all time. I am to count that more valuable than my life. Now, the task in front of me is to identify the ministry that the LORD wants me do and to keep on working at it even not knowing what tomorrow will bring, and expect sufferings while doing it.

Like Pastor John Piper urged the students:

"Do not live for the American Dream, neither as a college student, nor as a mid-lifer nor as a seventy-something. I am going to Jerusalem."

My prayer is that I will do the same.