

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### Now is the Time

When I was a teenager, I thought “35” was “over the hill.” Then, “35” rolled along and “60” looked “ancient.” And when my grandmother was well past retirement age, she used to enjoy watching a television program called “Life Begins at 80.” It’s funny how the “young” always seem to see “old” as somewhere in the future.

On the other hand, there are days like today when I feel much older than I really am...when the wash is only half done, the house is maybe a third of the way picked up...and the ironing is 100 % unfinished. So, if 60 looks old to me today, how come I don’t feel so young?

Maybe...just maybe it’s because, today, I haven’t decided to start “anew.” Maybe it’s because what I’ve been doing is working on a bunch of “old stuff”...yesterday’s business...and working on the “old” makes me feel that way.

Maybe it’s because “old” isn’t somewhere in the future; it’s somewhere in the past. And “young” is the start of something “now”...a looking ahead instead of behind...a moment that we are given time and time again to begin anew.

*“...go and sin no more.” [John 8:11]*

said Jesus.

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*"...behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."*

[II Cor. 6:2]

And it's like the Creation all over again, only life doesn't begin, anymore, back then...anymore than it does at "80." It begins as it always has...in a new beginning...for thus says the Lord God:

*"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." [Ezek. 36:26,27]*

And so, it is possible for you to be re-created in any given instant of time that you chose to begin again. For now is "the beginning" and

*"...in the image of God he created him." [Gen. 1:27]*

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