Growing Old in Christ A Biblical Theology of Ageing





(L-R) "Gratitude" and "Grace" by photographer Eric Enstrom (1875-1968).

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures.

Psalm 90:10

The psalmist acknowledges that old age is a bonus, a gift from God. And the apostle Paul admonishes Christians to "live a life that is worthy of the calling He has graciously extended to you" (Ephesians 4:1). So, how do we, as disciples of Christ, live our gift of old age worthily?

One of the hallmarks of contemporary Western culture is its attitude towards ageing and the elderly. Youth, novelty, and productivity are highly prized and celebrated in our modern society, while the elderly are often marginalised. This not only poses difficulties for old people, but it is also a loss for younger generations who could learn much from the elderly if they are willing to listen.

The church in the West has not been immune to these broader cultural trends. We are accustomed to hearing about addressing the needs of our youth. It is common for churches to employ ministers to work with youth and young families. But when was the last time you heard of a church employing a minister to address and support the needs of senior saints?

Our affluence will allow most of us to engage in a thing called "retirement." How is a Christian to view their retirement? Our medical technologies are allowing us to stay alive longer, even though our quality of life may still leave much to be desired. How is a Christian to navigate caring for aged parents, as well as our own age-related onset of disability? What is a "good death" from a Christian point of view, and how do we prepare for a good death?

This short course facilitates our thinking about ageing from a theological and biblical perspective. It will be delivered over six live online sessions via Zoom. *Come and join in the camaraderie of Christians interested in learning!*

Dates: Tuesday evenings – 13, 20, 27 May and 10, 17, 24 June 2025 (no class on 3 June).

Time: 7.00 – 9.00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)

Venue: Online – Zoom **Instructor:** Steve Wilson

Online registration: klesis.com.au Inquiries: Helen info@klesis.com.au

Fee: AUD\$44 per person (includes GST). Covers course participation and materials.

Places are limited, so do register early. Registrations close: <u>Monday, 14 April</u> (or earlier if all places are filled).

This module is brought to you by Klesis Institute. While Klesis chooses to remain unaccredited so as to keep courses affordable and accessible, our KlesisEquip modules are biblically grounded, theologically informed, and practice oriented.



Instructor: Stephen Wilson is an elder serving The Point Church of Christ which meets in Redlands City, Brisbane, Queensland. He has worked in church ministry, education, and community services for more than 35 years. Stephen holds qualifications in education (BA, GradDipEd), community services (MCouns), religion and biblical studies (MRS, MA), and theology (MTh). Stephen and his wife, Donette, have enjoyed nearly 36 years of marriage and have been blessed with three children: Nathan, Hannah, and Caitlin.

