

At our recent family gathering at our Calif cabin, we were joined by our son Matt, wife Angie and 6 year old, Wes from Des Moines, Iowa. Our daughter Sarah, husband Michael, and 14 year old Nick, and 12 year old Lucy, came up from the San Francisco Bay Area. We celebrated Jay's 78th birthday and that began age related ribbing. Our kids are good at that and enjoy mortifying us with their insights. I was amused until Matt mentioned he would be 50 on his next birthday! I was sure that had to be wrong, wrong, wrong! I tried to convince Matt that it had to be another year or maybe two away! Alas, it was true and January will be here and our first child will turn 50 and that sounds awful!

Since news, current events, and today's TV hold no interest for me, I have been going back in time to the "oldies." I've landed in 1935 and can get movies of the era -- mostly old Westerns, my favorite. At the beginning of each DVD there is a disclaimer: "the contents of this DVD have been digitally remastered from decades old masters. Since film prints can suffer natural decomposition over the years, please enjoy this classic material and forgive any imperfections that result from the passage of time." I began to think of those of us who are accumulating decades. Maybe we should think of ourselves as "classics." That way we can claim our imperfections are merely the "result of the passage of time". Apparently the "classics" are to be enjoyed and natural decomposition forgiven. It doesn't sound so bad to be an "old master" due to the accumulation of decades! In Proverbs 16:31 it says "*gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.*" In chapter 19:8 it says "*he who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers*" and in verse 11 "*a man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense*". Surely along with our gray hair we accumulate wisdom - right? In 16:16 it says "*how much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!*" and in verse 21 "*the wise in heart are called discerning.*" Despite the gray, I would like to find a "discerning heart."

I know quite a few "old masters." It's true, wisdom is gained. I can take ribbing, but being a "classic" is something to aspire to. There is a treatise in Proverbs 8:22,23,30,31 by Wisdom: "*the Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.*"

I salute all "classics".

Wink