

REMINDED OF MY AGE

Two weeks ago, I shared in my mid-week message how Tim Hortons is celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2024 and that I was born in their first year of operation. Many of you are very good at math as I received a lot of comments after that message how I will be turning 60 this year. Since then, I have been getting constant reminders about my age. It started with my doctor prescribing some new medication for me that typically does not become a problem in people until they hit my age in life. Then I saw a rerun of a sitcom I watch that reminded me of my age. In this rerun a man was talking about adopting a baby in his 40's and how he would be in his 60's when the child graduated high school. It reminded me how I was 42 when I became a dad, and I too will be 61 when my daughter goes off to university. These are just a few of the reminders I have been getting of late about my age.

All of these reminders brought to mind the saying that "age is just a number." My mother is a perfect example of this. She is 93 and shared with me on Sunday how she has already bought gifts for next Christmas. She commented after sharing this how some people would think it was crazy for somebody her age to buy Christmas gifts this early. It did not sound crazy to me. It demonstrated showing positivity and optimism. How my mother lives her life at the age of 93 is a constant reminder to me that age is just a number.

I took a few moments before sitting down to type this message to Google search the saying "Age is just a number." I was interested to read some of the quotes that people have shared about this. I particularly liked what Mark Twain had to say:

Age is an issue of mind over matter; If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

I don't mind the fact that I am turning 60 this year with a teenage daughter heading off to university in a year's time. I have often commented it is what keeps me young.

After spending a few moments searching on Google, I opened my Bible and began exploring what it says about age. I was led to a very interesting passage found in 1 John 2: 14:

I have written to you who are God's children because you know the Father. I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.

John is writing to an audience of believers consisting of all ages. He points out that some of the blessings these believers are experiencing are as a result of where they are at in their relationship with Christ. He also stresses how important it is that ***God's word is living in our hearts regardless of a person's age***. This is important for us to be reminded of because having God's word living in our hearts, regardless of our age, will allow us to:

- know God's character and realize we can walk with Him in complete confidence and assurance,
- be strong in our faith, facing whatever challenges may come our way,
- be able to resist temptation and the fallouts that happen when we say yes to it,
- be assured that our sins are forgiven, and we will have eternal life because of our belief in Jesus.

It is true that age is just a number, but what is so important regardless of how old we are, is that we are ensuring God's word lives in our hearts. It is the key to truly living life to its fullest no matter how old we are.

I am sure I might receive a few messages about my age after people read this message. I am okay with this. I am used to it after spending the better part of January seeing "60" displayed on my Tim Horton's coffee cup each morning I stop in. At least I will get a pause from this reminder when the "Roll up the Rim" contest begins.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean