

## *MM — Birthday and Mother's Day — May 12, 2018*

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

Linda sent me a birthday card with something she found in my Baby Book written by my mother in 1932:

*"Artie is a dear little fellow 2 years old this past week. Artie's birthday was Tuesday. Avery [my next oldest brother] was 3 months old...It is wonderful to have a dear husband and 2 dear babies."*

I texted Linda: *"Mama's do love their babies, don't they?"*

She texted back: *"They sure dooooooo!"*

She's a Mama and Grandma herself, so guess she should know.

### **BIRTHDAYS AND MORTALITY**

You can't have a birthday without facing mortality. My parents had reason to doubt that I would live through my infancy. I was not aware enough to wonder or worry.

But years pass and at some point even a child realizes that life isn't forever.

I have a framed quotation on my office wall. It has been in my growing-up homes for as long as I remember. It's from Psalm 90:

#### **SO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS**

#### **THAT WE MAY APPLY OUR HEARTS UNTO WISDOM**

Number our days? My memory is that it took Christmas forever to arrive. The same with birthdays. And summer. Days passed slowly. Time almost stood still.

Psalm 90 is relentless in its telling of time.

*"The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore; they are soon gone, and we fly away."*

I didn't know what "score" meant, but it seemed like a long time.

But I got the idea that life passes, that our years come to an end. Even my years.

Then comes that verse framed on my wall:

*"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

I focus on those words about numbering our days. I think "treasuring" or "valuing" or "paying attention." I have no say in how many, but I have some say about this day.

I think of other wisdom verses.

*"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

*This is the day...rejoice and be glad in it.*

Ecclesiastes is good reading for a birthday. Wide open pondering of the way life is and how it turns out. One idea is repeated more than once:

*"There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil."*

We like the idea of eat, drink and find enjoyment. Don't take this as the last word in the Bible about meaningful life.

Today we were with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at a local brew-pub. My first outside event in almost two months. I'm not yet excited about eating or drinking but that is coming back. On this Mother's Day weekend I think of the women in our family. In my children's generation they are grandmas, and loving it. Now come the grandchildren becoming mothers, and loving it. I sit back and marvel. I admire them so much They love their babies! They really do.

*"Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

*Art Morgan, May 12, 2018*