***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

When I retired, I felt lost. Without a job, who needs me? Oh, I’m active but it’s not like it used to be. My job used to fill my days, but it’s different now. Maybe you transitioned to retirement more easily than I have. If you toiled for years in an impersonal factory or office, you’re happy to be free from the grind. If you’re a farmer, you may not have had a final day at work; you just slowed down. Everyone experiences retirement differently, but I’ve discovered one fact I think applies to us all.

The church has not prepared us *spiritually* for retirement. The church has done an excellent job of preparing us to die: Confess your sinfulness and trust Jesus as your Savior. Billy Graham agreed. “All my life I was taught how to die as a Christan, but no one ever taught me how I ought to live in the years before I die” (*Nearing Home – Life, Faith, and Finishing Well*). So then, what about the years between receiving your last paycheck and the final days of decline and death? With modern longevity, many people are active in retirement for ten, twenty, even more years. I’m active and hope to be active for many more years, but how do I *spiritually*—not financially, not medically, not socially, not volunteering—understand my last years in this present life?

What a great blessing Mission Central is for us retirees! For one thing, Mission Central’s focus on Jesus keeps you and me looking to our heavenly future. Yes, Jesus died for your sins and mine; we are forgiven. However, Jesus is not an historical artifact in the barn museum. He’s alive, ruling all things for the sake of His mission, and soon will take us to our heavenly home.

Another benefit is Mission Central helps us retirees leave a legacy. Our volunteering, our prayers, our donations now or in our wills, our telling others about Jesus and Mission Central, leaves a legacy that will last to eternity. “What’s done on earth will pass; what’s done for Christ will last.” In our coming heavenly reunion, the countless throng will include people who learned about Jesus from God’s blessing upon our work with Mission Central.

Well, I’ve figured it out. No, I haven’t figured out everything about retirement, but I know how to think *spiritually* about these years between the last paycheck and going to our heavenly home. The Old Testament Sabbath was Saturday. For observant Jews it was and still is a day of joyful rest in God and with one another. Friday was the day of preparation, filled with eager anticipation of the wonderful Sabbath to come. For us Christians, “there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9). Retirement is my Friday of anticipation for the eternal Sabbath of heaven. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard…what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). TGIF!