

# Something to Pray About

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By Cindy Sears – November 2011

**“In Margaritaville”**

Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. —1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

*“Nibblin’ on sponge cake, watchin’ the sun bake; all of those tourists covered with oil. Strummin’ my six string on my front porch swing. Smell those shrimp. They’re beginnin’ to boil.*

*Wasted away again in Margaritaville, searchin’ for my lost shaker of salt... (Jimmy Buffett, Margaritaville)*

I think we all have moments when we wish that we could get away from it all—just lie back on a warm beach or sit and snooze under a shade tree next to a gurgling stream—and let the world go by.

We hear people talking about “when I retire” or “I can’t wait until I can kiss this job good-bye” or “when my ship comes in” I’ll do nothing but have fun all day long and every day. People who have made enough money to retire at 40 are admired and envied. Such people talk about playing golf all day, reading 40 books a week, going to the beach all summer long, and traveling the world to see the sights. The question is: what good are they doing themselves or the world? How much golf can you play before it becomes routine? How many books can you read before your eyes begin to cross and your mind wanders so much you can’t remember a thing you have read? And if early retirement is so great, why do so many of the rich continue to work anyway?

If you read the Bible, you will notice that the word “retirement” is not there. All the great heroes of the Bible worked until the day they died. Even while in prison, the Apostle Paul, a man past today’s retirement age, talked about going on another mission trip once he was released. Moses led the Israelites until the day he died. Apostle John wrote The Revelation in his 90’s (and after having suffered in an Emperor’s failed attempt to boil him in oil).

For a people who are supposed to be look forward to an eternity on a new earth with no pain or sorrow while in constant joyous communion with the Lord, you’d think “retirement” wouldn’t even be in a Christian’s vocabulary. Why retire here when we are promised a so much better place in God’s eternal Kingdom of Glory?

The Bible says, “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Those are the words chosen to begin the Preface to the book, *Don’t Waste Your Life* by John Piper. God owns you and this is the meaning of your life—to glorify God (p. 9). And your only true and lasting joy comes from obeying Him by living a God-exalting life. But this joy will cost you your life. “Jesus said, ‘Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.’ (Mark 8:35) In other words, it is better to lose your life than to waste it.”

“If you live gladly to made others glad in God, your life will be hard, your risks will be high, and your joy will be full...Some of you will die in service of Christ. That will not be a tragedy. Treasuring life above Christ is a tragedy.” (p. 9)

“His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

As Francis Chan says in *Crazy Love*, “Friends, we need to stop living selfish lives, forgetful of our God. Our lives here are short, sometimes unexpectedly so...” (p. 50-51). What will you have to lay at the Master’s feet when you go to meet Him? I pray every day that the Lord will use me up here. For this will all pass away, but the Lord’s love is everlasting.