**Retirement**

**When Charles Eliot, the former president of Harvard University, was 90 years old, he made his way down the road from his retirement cottage in Maine to the cottage of his neighbors, the Peabodys. Mrs. Peabody greeted him enthusiastically and ushered him into the living room. After some small talk, Eliot asked if he could hold Mrs. Peabody's new baby. She was a bit surprised, but she lifted her infant son from his crib and tenderly placed him in the arms of the old man. Eliot cradled the baby in his arms for a few moments and then returned him to his mother. With a gesture of thanks he explained, “I have been looking at the end of life for so long that I wanted to look for a few moments at its beginning.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**Herman: “There’s got to be more to life than this. I’ve been getting really bored since I retired. I need some excitement. I want to wake up in the morning with a sense of anticipation.” Man: “When you go to bed at night, leave your front door unlocked.” *(Jim Unger, in Herman comic strip)***

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**George Burns, on his CBS special, “George Burn's 95th Birthday Party”: “People are always asking me when I'm going to retire. Why should I? I've got it two ways -- I'm still making movies, and I'm a senior citizen so I can see myself at half price.” (Reader's Digest)**

**Most people are in rehearsal for old age from the time they're 25, 30, like that. They are already planning their retirement at 40. It's hard to learn to be old. So folks start learning to walk slow and forget things and get absent-minded and foggy. Well, by the time they're 60, 65, they're getting real good at being old, so when they're 70, hallelujah, they're a big smash hit -- now they're old. (George Burns, in Reader's Digest)**

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**Life's opportunities never end. God designed you to be a continual learner, a continual doer, a continual explorer and a continual giver. He never authorized a "retirement package" from those pursuits! (Paula White, in You're All That! Understand God's Design for Your Life)**

**When Calvin Coolidge sent his annual dues to the National Press Club this year he had to fill out the usual card giving his name, address and occupation just to keep the records straight. His occupation, he wrote, was “retired.” The remaining few lines, invitingly blank, were headed “Remarks,” and Mr. Coolidge, who makes remarks with impunity now that the government is off his shoulders, wrote “Glad of it.” (Collier’s)**

**“I don't know what to wear to the costume party,” complained my father's friend. “We're to dress according to our occupation, and I'm retired.” “Wear loafers,” my father suggested. (Karen Wight, in Reader's Digest)**

**If you can retire with 60 percent of your current income, you ought to be able to make it. Or so say the financial analysts. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Dalai Lama in retirement: Tenzin Gyatso, aka the 14th Dalai Lama, is easing into retirement, said Melissa Mathison in Rolling Stone. Now 76, he announced in March that he would step down as the official head of the Tibetan state, a role he had since he was 15. In May, he transferred his governmental duties to Lobsang Sangay, the 43-year-old Harvard legal scholar who was elected Tibet’s prime minister. The move shocked his followers and critics alike, but the Dalai Lama says it was part of a plan he had all along to further democratize Tibetan politics. “I always tell people that religious institutions and political institutions should be separate,” he says. “So what I am telling others I must implement for myself.” He stresses that his retirement is only political, not spiritual. “That does not mean the Dalai Lama ends. The institution remains, and not just for my generation,” he says. “The rest of my life, I am fully committed to these things: Promotion of religious harmony. Promotion of human values. Human happiness.” Despite the anxieties he briefly caused Tibetans, he says his sleep has been “extraordinarily sound” since stepping down. The Chinese government, which believes Tibetan autonomy will die when he does, has dismissed his move as a “trick.” He sees it as a lesson. “I am often saying that the Chinese Communist Party should retire. Now I can tell them, “Do like me. Retire with grace.” (The Week magazine, August 12, 2011)**

**Working in a metropolitan hospital, my friend overheard several doctors talking in the corridor after lunch. The conversation became animated when one of the doctors announced he was retiring. A colleague asked how he could possibly retire in his mid-50s and still maintain a comfortable living. "It's easy," said the doctor. "One wife. One House." (J. K. Hollingsworth, in Reader's Digest)**

**It is wise to move with the flow of life into a creative experience beyond a career of work, but the important thing is, don't think of retirement with its connotation of giving up or going backward. Think advancement, the joyous step forward to a new and equally creative period of life. Beginning with a positive advancement plan, one may engage in a continuing preparation for an eventual transition into new activity of creative and useful experience. (Eric Butterworth, in Celebrate Life)**

**My mother was browsing in a store when a saleswoman offered assistance. Mom admitted she didn't have anything particular in mind, and the pair started chatting. The woman quickly learned that Mom was retired. Interested, she confessed that she, too, was considering retirement. Mom immediately started telling her how much she liked no longer working and how the saleswoman would enjoy it too. Finally, convinced by Mom's enthusiasm, she asked, "How long have you been retired?" Mom said, "This is my first day." (Lee Beacham, in Reader's Digest)**

**Paul Gauguin “retired” as a stockbroker and became a world-famous artist. (United Technologies Corporation, advertising message)**

**Retirement, we understand, is great if you are busy, rich and healthy. But then, under those conditions, work is great too. (Bill Vaughan, Bell-McClure Syndicate)  
  
Retirement doesn't have to be a red light. It can be a green light. Othmar Ammann would agree. After he “retired” at age 60, he designed, among other things, the Connecticut and New Jersey Turnpikes, the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, Dulles Airport, the Throgs Neck Bridge, and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. (United Technologies Corporation, advertising message)**

**The persons hardest to convince they're at the retirement age are children at bedtime. (Shannon Fife, in Reader's Digest)**

**Observing the many bird houses that her friend’s husband had built and placed in the back yard, the woman asked his wife: “And just how long has your husband been retired, Mrs. Burkes?” (Reminisce Extra magazine cartoon)**

**Don't go fishing when you retire. Go hunting. Hunt for the chance to do what you've always wanted to do. Then do it! (United Technologies Corporation, advertising message)**

**Just after my retirement from 45 years of teaching, I decided to do some subbing for a local school. During one of my classes, I asked the children if they would be willing to die for a friend. “For example,” I asked, “would any of you be willing to die for me?” “That wouldn't be fair,” a young voice piped up. “You're going to die in a few years anyway.” (Rose Long, in Catholic Digest)**

**I've been in the process of retiring for the last 30 years. *(Jessica Lange, actor)***

**Retirement should be based on the tread, not the mileage. (Read by Allen Ludden on “Password Plus,” NBC)**

**Be like Ezio Pinza, an inspiration to millions when he starred in SouthPacific, reaching the peak of his career at an age when some people retire. Pinza was young when others his age force themselves to decay; he was far younger in spirit than some less fortunate people in their early twenties. (Dr. Maxwell Maltz)**

**Never retire. Michelangelo was carving the “Rondanini” just before he died at 89. Verdi finished his opera “Falstaff" at 80. And the 80-year-old Spanish artist Goya scrawled on a drawing, “I am still learning.” *(Dr. W. Gifford-Jones, columnist)*  
In a poem, Ode to Retirement, by Len Ingebrigtsen, is this line: “The reason I know my youth is all spent? My get up and go has got up and went.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**A professor who retired from Ohio State University was given the title professor emeritus. When an elderly friend heard the news, she was delighted. "Harold," she told him, "this is an honor you deserved a long time ago." (Kevin Gallagher, in Reader's Digest)**

**Happy, productive older people don't necessarily refuse to retire from their jobs. But they do refuse to retire from life. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Retirement must be wonderful. I mean, you can suck in your stomach for only so long. *(Burt Reynolds)***

**Retire? I can't spell the word. I'd play in a wheelchair. *(Keith Richards)***

**Good week for: Self-preservation, after San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland, 24, retired after just one year in the NFL to spare himself from the brain damage that comes from frequent hard hits and concussions. "From what I've researched and what I've experienced," Borland said, "I don't think it's worth the risk." (The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)**

**Of every 1,000 senior citizens who retire to Florida, 481 eventually move, usually back to their original location. *(Marketwatch.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 2, 2007)***

**Retirement takes all the fun out of Saturdays. (Duke Gmahle)**

**The boss says to the employee: “I know you're three weeks away from retirement, but it's either fire you now or I have to fork out for another gold watch.” *(Jim Unger, in Herman comic strip)***

**I retired about 4 years before my wife did, and when she retired, a friend of mine asked, “You and Eleanor will do a lot of traveling, won’t you?” I said, “Yes, to the doctor, the drugstore, the hospital and the funeral home.” And that’s been the truth! *(Rex Grable, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off. *(Abe Lemons, college basketball coach)***

**Frank says to Ernest: "I'm retiring tomorrow -- and I'm going to walk down to the end of this line and find out what we've been making for the last 30 years!" *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**Seven years after he was sworn into office, George Washington announced his retirement from the presidency, September 19, 1796. “Every day the increasing weight of years admonished me more and more, that the shade of retirement is necessary to me as it will be welcome.” Washington died three years later, at 67, of a throat infection. *(Chai Woodham, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Geech: “Merle, when can we retire?” Merle: “I can’t retire until I’m about 65 or so.” Geech: “What about me?” Merle: “Well, you could always take early retirement.” Geech: “How early?” Merle: “Is 4:30 early enough?” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Retirement is not in my vocabulary. They aren't going to get rid of me that way. *(Betty White)***

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