**Temporary, Not Lasting**

**What can be seen is temporary,**

**but what cannot be seen is eternal.**

***(2 Corinthians 4:18)***

**Americans throw away 2 million tons of computers, cell phones, and other electronic gadgets a year. Much of the waste is toxic. Technolog products now account for 40 percent of the lead in U.S. landfills. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 4, 2005)***

**That which one most anticipates, soon comes to pass. *(English proverb)***

**An Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent an aphorism which would be true and appropriate at all times and in all situations. Their answer was, “And this, too, shall pass away.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**It is true, we make our art in the sand, and then it is wiped clean to reflect the impermanence of life. *(Dave Coverly, in Speed Bump comic strip)***

**We do not attach ourselves lastingly to anything that has not cost us care, labor or longing. *(Honore de Balzac, French dramatist)***

**According to a representative of the Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, official supplier to Major League Baseball, the average life span of a major league baseball is just six pitches. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 89)***

**Here is another great word in the Bible: “It came to pass.” Sure, it didn’t come to stay. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**The tallest bird of all time was the moa. A flightless inhabitant of New Zealand that became extinct 400 years ago. It grew to be eleven feet tall. Its drumstick was a yard long. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 119)***

**Books that are made in the present day only have a life expectancy of about one hundred years because the sulfuric acid in the wood-pulp paper rots rapidly. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 29)***

**Of the 14 million books in the Library of Congress, it’s reported 3 ½ million are so fragile they not only can’t be read, they can’t even be picked up. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Report is that old bridges are falling apart about half again as fast as new bridges are being built. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Remember that car called “La Femme”? Chrysler put it out in 1955. Equipped with compact, lipstick, comb and purse. It only stuck around a couple of years. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Nothing is permanent in this wicked world – not even our troubles. *(Charlie Chaplin)***

**If life's good, cheer up and enjoy it. If it's bad, cheer up -- it won't last forever. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Americans discard 133,000 obsolete personal computers every day. *(U.S. News & World Report, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 22, 2005)***

**Amy: “Thanks for buying me lunch, Lola.” Lola: “Sure, Amy.” Amy: “And you even complimented my haircut and noticed my new blouse.” Lola: “Yeah, so?” Amy: “So is your condition terminal or just a 24-hour thing?” Lola: “Very funny.” *(Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark, in Lola comic strip)***

**Kenneth Brower, on the possible extinction of the condor, whose population has diminished to about 30 known survivors: If it is time for the condor to follow the dinosaurs, which its ancestors once fed on, the condors might do us a final service in the manner of mine-shaft canaries. They might open our eyes. When the vultures watching our civilization begin dropping dead, it is time to pause and wonder. *(Omni)***

**Posted in an office copier room: “COPIER TEMPORARILY NOT OUT OF ORDER.” *(Richard Erben, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One of the meetings at which St. Johnsbury, Vermont, selectmen discuss issues facing the town focused on the suitability of newly constructed pedestrian crosswalks in the downtown area. After an agreement was reached that the crosswalks would remain, one selectman asked, “Is this going to be a permanent thing?” “Oh, yes,” replied another, “for the time being.” *(St. Johnsbury, Vermont Caledonian-Record)***

**Even the darkest hour of your life is only 60 minutes long. *(Anonymous)***

**Whatever wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago also did away with about two-thirds of all other animal species alive until then. Yet who ever hears about any but the dinosaurs? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Sadness, fear, frustration or any troubling feeling cannot last. Nature doesn’t create a storm that never ends. *(Dr. Wayne Dyer)***

**How fleeting is fame? Well, I’ll bet you can’t identify John Watts Young, Charles Duke, Jr., and Tom Mattingly. They were the crew of Apollo 16, the longest, most ambitious, and, in many respects, the most productive of all the Apollo flights to the moon. In April 1972, Young and Duke spent 71 hours on the lunar surface, collected 214 pounds of rocks and soil, and drove an electric car to the lunar highlands for a total of 20 hours. For three days, they were the most famous men on earth. And off it too! *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 247)***

**Who said, “Whenever I feel like exercise, I lie down until the feeling passes”? Although there are many likely candidates, the source is Robert Maynard Hutchins (1899-1977), former president and chancellor of the University of Chicago, dean of the Yale Law School, and chairman of the board for the Encyclopaedia Britannica. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 265)***

**Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final. *(Rainer Maria Rilke, poet)***

**Italy’s health minister says more Italians are dying now than are being born. If the pattern doesn’t change, says Carlo Donal Cattin, the world’s Italians will become extinct. Italy has fewer babies per capita than any other industrialized nation. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A language dies every two weeks. Of the seven thousand languages spoken in the world today, linguists claim half are in danger of extinction and likely to disappear during this century. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 184)***

**Of all the life forms that have ever existed on earth, 99 percent are now extinct. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 111)***

**Television news is like a lightning flash. It makes a loud noise, lights up everything around it, leaves everything else in darkness and then is suddenly gone. *(Hodding Carter, in Reader's Digest)***

**Street-corner mailboxes are going the way of the phone booth. As more people send e-mails and pay their bills online, the decline in first-class mail has prompted the U.S. Postal Service to remove tens of thousands of underused mailboxes from city streets. *(Chicago Tribune, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 27, 2006)***

**We learn only when it is too late that the marvel -- is the passing moment. *(Francois Mitterand)***

**The classical period of Mayan culture lasted for six centuries and then collapsed for reasons that have never been explained. Theories range from an epidemic to bad farming methods that exhausted the land. The mystery is that the great Mayan cities flourished at the beginning of the ninth century and were ghost towns by its end. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 424)***

**Only one out of every six movies made in the 1920s still exists, according to the film chroniclers. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**Of the original teams that started the National Football League in 1922, which still play. Only the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Why O'Brien doesn't fear obscurity: Conan O'Brien has already made his peace with being forgotten, said Dave Itzkoff in The New York Times. The late-night mainstay hosted The Tonight Show until 2010, moved to TBS, and after making no new shows since October, is returning with a half-hour format that looks like a half-step into retirement. "This concept that I must be the king of the night, I don't even know what that means anymore," says O'Brien, 55. "It's an outmoded concept." Two years after he makes his last shows, "It's going to be, Who's Conan? This is going to sound grim, but eventually, all our graves go unattended." O'Brien means this literally. He once visited former President Calvin Coolidge's Vermont resting place and found it desolate -- this despite America's 30th president being "pretty popular" in his day. He credits comic, actor-director Albert Brooks with liberating him from the frantic need to make a permanent mark on the world. "When I met him the first time, I said, you make movies, they live on forever. I just do these late-night shows, they get lost, they're never seen again and who cares?" Brooks, he says, replied, "What are you talking about? None of it matters. It doesn't matter. You'll be forgotten. I'll be forgotten. We'll all be forgotten." After that, O'Brien said, "I was walking on air. It was incredibly freeing." *(The Week magazine, February 1, 2019)***

**As in the physical world, so in the spiritual world, pain does not last forever. *(Katherine Mansfield, New Zealand-born author)***

**Another plant or animal life form is said to become extinct every 10 minutes. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 20)***

**By the time we have ourselves all worked up and unhappy about some problem, it may be already vanished, and our discomfort and unhappiness will have been only a deterrent to our growth and progress. *(Dr. Ernest Wilson, Unity minister)***

**Today’s fad may be tomorrow’s antique. A profitable business can easily fade into obscurity if times change and customer needs change. The original Fortune 500 was published fifty years ago. Today, only a few of the original companies are still on the list, and those that are still counted are in different businesses. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 48)***

**There are no permanent rivers or lakes in Saudi Arabia. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 73)***

**How long does a sky-written word last up there on a fairly windless day? Six minutes, average. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Because of the speed at which the sun moves, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 173)***

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**With three species in the rain forest going extinct each hour, we are in the midst of one of the great extinction spasms of geologic history. *(Discover magazine)***

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**About 2,000 steam locomotives are left, out of the 150,000 built in the United States. Only a couple hundred actually can run, though. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**Life span of a taste bud is about 10 days. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Helga: “I’m worried Doctor – lately Honi acts like she doesn’t hear a word I say!” Doctor: “Be patient, Helga. It’s a temporary condition called ‘teenage hearing loss’.” (*Chris Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**With digital and high-definition television taking over the market, Americans last year threw out or recycled 68 million old TV sets. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 16, 2008)***

**Mark Twain was leaving church one day with his friend William Dean Howells when it started to rain heavily. Howells glanced at the deluge and said, “Do you think it will stop?’ “It always has,” replied Twain. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Whenever the urge to exercise comes upon me, I lie down for a while and it passes. *(Robert Maynard Hutchins)***

**Wife: "Wave goodbye to Dennis, George!" George: "If only it were a permanent wave." *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**Son: “Dad, I’m apprehensive about starting another year at college. What happens if I don’t make any friends? What happens if I don’t get good grades? What happens if I accomplish absolutely nothing?” Dad: “Beats me. What usually happens?” Son: “I get over it eventually.” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, six are lost. Only the pyramids of Egypt remain. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 252)***

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