

"and all the days of methuselah were nine hundred and sixty nine years; and He died"

Gen. 5:27

methuselah is established as the oldest man. This is confirmed by Genesis.

It is also confirmed in another way - It is recorded that he was 187 when his son Lamech was born - That Lamech was 182 when his son Noah was born and Noah was 600 when the Flood came - add $187 + 182 + 600$ and you have 969. In other words this would indicate that methuselah was drowned in the Flood thus suffering a premature death.

we all want to live a long life - we have our disappointments here & there - out there we have a wonderful world opening between the stars - warmed by the sun - lighted by silvery moon, sweet with the winds of spring that blow through the budding orchards - beautiful with the mantle of snow -

added to this we have work and play - responsibility - love and friendship and great aims - these make it hard to lay life down.

we have a promise of long life if we honor our father & mother.

methuselah's environment was different from ours - no telephones - compressed air pumps - so if he had a wish - he did like old man "miser" just keep rolling along -

He lived 969 years and he died - the world made no complaint at his demise when

he went away - ² In other words his life had length & that was its only dimension -

History shows many a man who lived too long - Some men will do a good deed and if then they would die their names would be a benediction - but living on they messed things up & died in disgrace -

BREADTH - Business can have something more than length - while you carry on your business you can spread out & make it contribute to human welfare -

The man who is marked out for mastery has a ranging mind - He sees the ^{next} thing beyond the one he knows already and is not too lazy to make the effort to learn it.

But you may cover the whole range of business detail and be narrow - the great man is the one who goes on broadening far beyond material interests - till his material is related to the mental and spiritual forces of life -

"He has learned that the only real way to do the little task with zest and to fit himself for the next larger one is to illumine the small one with a large imagination of its relationship to bigger ends"

We plead, therefore, for the spirit of religion and life which not only has length of precedent behind it but breadth of appreciation now - Round us as the great wide仁慈 of God's grace.

DEPTH — we have spoken of length and breadth. But there is breadth that has not depth to it. In it is shallowness — in it is stagnation — In this men spread their desires over many things just for their own selfishness — They are like the stream that spreads out over a marsh possessing great breadth but producing nothing — we need depth and channel

we need right dimensions — It is not enough to have long dimensions it is not enough to have it widened out like a sheet of lazy waters reflecting the beauties of a world which it has done nothing to create

HEIGHT — we must look up — when we have forgotten God we have made our selves like people in an iron cage with ceiling too low for them to stand up. It could 1000 miles long and that wide but if there is not depth or height they can't stand up —

Methuselah 969 years } which lived the
Jesus about 33 years } most?

