**Psalm 71**

*Remembered by God: Gospel Comfort for Alzheimer Sufferers and Caretakers*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1. STUDY (verses 1-3):** How does the psalmist describe God? What is he asking of God? What passages in the New Testament concerning the Person and work of Jesus Christ help us rightly view and apply these opening verses of Psalm 71?

**2. STUDY (verses 4-11):** What is the psalmist asking for? How does he describe his relationship to God? Why might the psalmist be concerned about his faith in old age? What or who is threatening the psalmist? What New Testament promises can we cling to in old age and weakness?

**3. STUDY (verses 12-16):** What is the ground of the psalmist’s hope in these verses? How might a believer suffering with Alzheimer’s relate to and/or pray these verses? What threats do they face? How can you help a suffering believer tell of God’s righteous acts and remember his righteousness?

**4. STUDY (verses 17-21):** What is the psalmist concerned about in these verses? How does the psalmist view and understand his troubles? What is his hope? In what specific ways can the promises of Romans 8 answer the cries of Psalm 71:17-21?

**5. STUDY (verses 22-24):** What is the psalmist looking forward to? How does this future state encourage him in his present suffering? What are Christians looking forward to? How does Romans 8 (again) help us in this regard?

**6. APPLY:** What (according to Dr. Benjamin Mast) “procedural memories” are you cultivating in your life now (i.e. spiritual disciplines)? How might these things help you if you find yourself suffering with Alzheimer’s one day? If you find yourself caring for a believer suffering with Alzheimer’s, what practical ways can you keep them engaged in serving the Lord and practicing spiritual disciplines? What promises from Scripture can they (and you) cling to for assurance, comfort, and strength when memories begin to fade? How will you counsel an Alzheimer’s sufferer who sins? How might understanding the complex body/soul interaction assist you in this?