

**LIFE AT THREE-SCORE: A
SERMON DELIVERED IN THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
PHILADELPHIA, NOVEMBER 28,
1858**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649394975

Life at Three-score: A Sermon Delivered in the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia,
November 28, 1858 by Albert Barnes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALBERT BARNES

**LIFE AT THREE-SCORE: A
SERMON DELIVERED IN THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
PHILADELPHIA,
NOVEMBER 28, 1858**

Life at Three-Score:

A SERMON

DELIVERED IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA,

NOVEMBER 28, 1856.

BY

ALBERT BARNES.

PHILADELPHIA:

PARRY AND M^CMILLAN.

1859.

C. 1108. 2. 13

✓



Miss M. C. Lane

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 LODGE ALLEY.

AN apology seems to be necessary for publishing a sermon having so much reference to my own life and opinions as this has. It is easy to conceive that circumstances may exist which would make it proper for a Pastor thus to allude to himself in preaching, though they might not justify a more extended publication than that which is necessarily made in the pulpit.

The following discourse was preached, without having been written, on a rainy day, when comparatively few persons were present. Some who were present have expressed a desire to possess it, and some who were absent have expressed a wish to know what was said on the occasion. It has accordingly been written out, as nearly as could be recollected in the language in which it was delivered, though somewhat enlarged in the process of committing it to paper. It contains sentiments which I regard as important, and which I would wish to commend to those who are entering on life; and if it has nothing else worthy of attention, it has one feature at least which I would hope may be useful. It will show that a man who has reached an age at which he can hope for little from the world, may take a cheerful and hopeful view of

life—a view which may do something to stimulate those who are about to engage in the struggles, to meet the temptations, and to bear the burdens of life; that a man who has reached the last stage of his journey may see much to live for on earth—much to encourage those who are just entering on their way. At the risk, therefore, of a charge of vanity which could not, I confess, be very easily replied to, but with, as I would hope, so prevalent a desire to do good as to justify what I am doing even with this risk, the sermon is committed to the press.

ALBERT BARNES.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31, 1858.

LIFE AT THREE-SCORE.

PSALM LXXI. 17, 18.

O GOD, THOU HAST TAUGHT ME FROM MY YOUTH; AND HITHERTO
HAVE I DECLARED THY WONDROUS WORKS. NOW ALSO, * * * *
O GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT; UNTIL I HAVE SHEWED THY STRENGTH
UNTO THIS GENERATION, AND THY POWER TO EVERY ONE THAT IS
TO COME.

THE occasions are rare on which it is proper for a minister of the Gospel to obtrude himself, or his private concerns, on the attention of his people. He has, indeed, like other men, his own private history—the history of his feelings and opinions; his struggles and conflicts; his successes and reverses; his trials and comforts; his hopes and fears. All these are of great interest to him, but in themselves they are of no more importance than the same things as they occur in other men. He may also have arduous labors to perform in his

profession, but so have other men in theirs; and I have not learned that the work of the ministry is any more arduous, or more beset with cares and trials, than the path of men engaged in other callings of life. Merchants, farmers, lawyers, physicians, teachers, have their own history, and their own struggles, and I know not why such private matters have any more claim to public attention, or to public sympathy, when they occur in the lives of ministers of the Gospel, than when they occur in the lives of men occupied in other professions.

Influenced by considerations such as these, I have never, in the thirty-four years of my ministry, twenty-eight of which have been spent in your service, regarded my own work as of sufficient public interest to lead me to preach a sermon on the anniversary of my ordination or installation, nor have I been accustomed to allude to myself, or to my private feelings, any further than occasionally to illustrate some point connected with the work of religion in the soul. This I have supposed

was to some extent allowable, for it sometimes occurs that there is no way of illustrating the nature of religion, or of describing the Christian warfare, better than that which is described from personal experience.

If I live three days longer, however, I shall have reached a period of life which seems to me to make it proper to depart for once from the rule which I have prescribed for my conduct; a period not only of great moment to myself, but eminently favorable for taking a view of life as it appears in the past, and in the future. A man who has reached the sixtieth year of his life *ought* to be able to give some views of living which will be worth the attention of those who are starting on the way; he *ought* to be able to offer some counsel which it would be wise and safe for those who are young to follow; he *ought* to be able so to speak of the temptations of the world as to show how they may be avoided or overcome; he *ought* to be able to say something which will encourage the next generation in the duties of life; he *ought* to be able to utter some-