

Intersections: Christianity & Today

Stan Schmidt

Tender Terminations

1. Life is like an onion: you peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.
—Carl Sandburg
2. We leave a lot of things in life. We say goodbye to
an old familiar home
an old friend
our life savings
the health of our youthful days
our life
etc. Which is hardest? Which hurts the most?
3. Realtors are happy to see you move. U-Haul is happy to see you move. Will all your neighbors be happy to see you move?

4. “My peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. See you later.” John 14:27–28
5. Do you ever imagine your last moments? Do you think about what your last words will be? Do you picture those who stand around your deathbed? Is it wrong or is it healthy to think about your last hours?
6. *Non-Termination Promises*
Japanese employment; marriage; dating someone for three years; joining a church; telling someone “Yes” when they ask you to write to them; saying yes to God’s love; having a baby.
7. Question: What’s the difference between falling in love and herpes?
Answer: Herpes lasts longer.
8. Will every aspect of your life eventually be terminated? Is there anything associated with you that will not be terminated 100 years from now?
I undertook great projects: I build houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. . . . yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless. A chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 2

Special bonus material on the next page

a poem by Stan

T ender T erminations

'Tis the tentative time.

Not ten times have we two talked at table
and tarried in the twilight.

T hen the terrible thought:

 T hough thou and this I

 see eye-to-eye—

 and ay [ever] there's never a nay—

 this tristful [sad] truth stands tantamount:

thou canst not stand the letter T .

Gen_ly mus_ I _hank _hee,

_hen _he par_ing make.