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## You Only Live...Twice?

I'm a great fan of Mitch Albom. His latest book is called *Twice*, and though it's not my favorite, it begins with the pertinent question, *What would you do if you could live your life over again?* It's a good question.

It's the same question posed by the delightful movie *Groundhog Day*, where poor Bill Murray gets stuck in a repetitive loop, stepping into the same puddle, living the same day over and over again. By the way, I grew up near Punxsutawney, so I am quite familiar with the tradition on Gobblers' Knob, even though I always have to go to Google to get the correct spelling.

### *I have two reactions:*

First, we all know you really can't live your life over again. As my favorite author Frederick Buechner says, *One life on this earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can.* Each moment, each day is a rare and precious gift, never to come again. There are no do-overs, no second chances. No, you can't live your life twice.

On the other hand, the good news of the Gospel is the word of **grace**. In a real sense, grace means a second chance. Grace means we are not totally depraved but our lives are redeemable, our sins can be forgiven, we can be saved. Grace means God can redeem our past and even use our mistakes to move us toward a hopeful future. It's true, *all we like sheep have gone astray*, but God promises that *In Christ, there*

is a new creation. Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new." (II Corinthians 5:17) Grace means we don't have to remain stuck in the same loop, making the same mistakes, stepping in the same puddle day after day. As the old hymn says, *Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.*

So **Happy Groundhog Day.** Watch the movie and discover with Phil that life really can be new by the grace of God.

~Written by Jack Harnish

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