

The Lord, a dwelling place? This cannot mean something physical. Be Thou to me a rock of habitation, to which I may continually come; Thou hast given commandment to save me, For Thou art my rock and my fortress. (Psa 71:3 NAS) For you have made the LORD, my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil shall befall thee. (Psa 91:9 NAS) The Lord has been and is a refuge for His people, a place of safety.

Three characteristics of the Lord God stand out in this Psalm: The first two, **His eternity and His anger**. His everlastingness is contrasted with man’s frailty. “... even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God!”

His anger and wrath (note five occurrences) is **due to what?** “Nostrils the breath of life... work in the sweat of your brow, face...” Anger is a very personal thing. A stirred-upness. Our iniquity brings it on. Take this principle back to Genesis and forward to Romans 1. His anger must be connected to and related with our iniquities, our *secrets* (sins). You set these things in the light of Your countenance, face. You “lay out” our record, set forth your case. By God’s anger, we are consumed and dismayed. Remember, **Moses was watching an entire generation die in the wilderness. But is that unlike what we are observing today?**

And man? You return him to dust (a reminder of his origin, and the creation relation).

Consequences of unbelief. Saved but perished? Days upon days, conducted under Your wrath. Our days are spent like a tale that is told... We end life like a sad, melancholy tale, and finish our years with a sigh. Who doesn’t do that? 70 or 80 years – what’s ten or so more or less in light of eternity? We are proud of our labor and sorrow. Then we are “cut off” and “fly away.”

TRANSITION; Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath? So consider, and fear the LORD accordingly! **So teach us. We need learning. We won’t figure things out for ourselves.** We need the Word of God! Back to the garden again. God talks to man!

So... return to us. Be moved with pity toward our estate. Show compassion to Thy servants. Notice the name by which we are called. **Satisfy us** (nothing wrong with praying for happiness, peace, if the right thing is understood); satisfy us early, so that we may rejoice (send forth a ringing cry) and be glad! This is indeed a merciful condition.

And we see a **third characteristic** of the Lord here more clearly – **His compassion, His pity upon us. And finally, let Thy work appear to us (especially Your Cross-work)** – and to our children after us. And **establish the work of our hands.**

Application: Notice since God’s eternity is in view, how foolish it is to be short-sighted! Oh, the peril of it! Without wisdom we can only see today (Hezekiah’s folly, Isa. 38 & 39). We don’t realize the fleetingness of our existence on earth. We just “kick the can down the road.” What does that mean? We are only postponing the inevitable.

Let Thy work appear again. In wrath, remember mercy. We have heard from our Fathers what You did in the past... **Let Your beauty, Your favor, be seen upon us, O Eternal God. I purpose by grace, by Your enabling favor, to from this time forward, gain a heart trained in the wisdom of Your word.**

His mercy. He would allow us to participate in His eternal work! What significance! We can be more than a mere “vapor.” We can be established, remain with permanence. What mercy!