

From Everlasting to Everlasting PSALM 90

INTRODUCTION

This morning we turn to a helpful Psalm that aids us in preparing for next year. Please turn in your Bible to Psalm 90. This is a Psalm identified as written by Moses. The ascription (superscription) of Psalm 90 reads: **A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD.** This is the only Psalm attributed to Moses, which makes it the oldest Psalm. It describes Moses as “**THE MAN OF GOD.**” This is a proper title for Moses who was the God-appointed emancipator, and lawgiver.

This Psalm contains the reflections of someone who is realizing that ***our fleeting lives can have ultimate value only if we live wisely before the Almighty God.*** The Psalmist is keenly aware of some realities that you and I need to take to heart.

I. Reality #1: Remember that the Lord is _____ (90:1-2)

Moses starts where every person should start by looking at the Lord. The psalm begins with a majestic affirmation of the awesomeness of our God, our Lord (Adonai) the word means Master. It emphasizes His sovereignty and right to command and rule in our lives. **Please note that this Sovereign Master is a timeless God.** The word “***everlasting***” is figurative in the Hebrew. It means “***from the vanishing point to the vanishing point.***” God is from the vanishing point in the past and reaches to the vanishing point in eternity future. Just as far as you can see, from vanishing point to vanishing point, He is still God.

What does this mean to you and me? When life becomes overwhelming, we must remember the One in whom we put our trust: He is the One who is always there. He was here when we came into the world, and He will be there when we exit this world. He is on the throne in prosperous times and remains on the throne in economically stressful times. He is God when we are healthy and when our health fails. He is God when we experience victories and when we fail. No matter what the circumstance, the child of God needs to remember that God is in control; He loves me, and He never makes a mistake.

The anchor in all situations is the character of God.

II. Reality #2: Remember that we are _____ eternal

(90:3-6)

Look at how Moses goes on to emphasize this point. He does so by contrasting God's eternality with humanity's transience (our temporariness). A man or woman's life is like a single blip that flashes once on the radar screen of eternity. We are like a fleeting dream. We are swept away, all of us, by the flood waters of time. **We are no more permanent than grass.** In the morning of our life, we are green, but in the evening, in the end, we wither away. And our even idea of a long, long time **(expressed here and several other places in the Bible by the generic "a thousand years")** ...our idea of a long, long time is like a single day to God, like a few hours in the night. Shouldn't this cause us to be in awe of God? Shouldn't this drive us to always turn to Him as the Keeper of time, as the Lord of time, as our ultimate reference point when it comes to time? When it comes to evaluating how we are living our lives? When it comes to seeking His best for us?

III. Reality #3: Remember that we are _____ (90:7-11)

Since we've been told that Moses is the author of this psalm, the language of verses 7-11 should remind us of what we know about the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. In spite of God's power and provision, the people continually grumbled and complained. They consistently doubted and despaired in the face of obstacles. **And they were hardened by their adversity.** They were stubborn in the face of encouragements and warnings. Therefore, as Moses indicates here, the people were brought to an end by God's anger and dismayed by His wrath. In fact, the word "**anger**" is mentioned **twice** in verses 7-11 and the word "**wrath**" **three** times. As we know from the book of Numbers, the people were judged and denied entrance to the Promise Land. They were made to wander for forty years.

The reality of sin has not only limited the *span of our life*, but it's also limited the *goodness of our life*.

IV. Reality #4: Remember that the Lord is _____ &

_____ (90:12-17)

Did you see how the psalmist ends this song with a string of prayer requests? "**Return**", "**have pity**", "**satisfy**", "**make us glad**", "**let your work be shown**", "**let [your] favor...be upon us**", and in the last verse, two times, "**establish the work of our hands**".

So, there are two things Moses has in mind when he talks about being taught to number our days.

(1) We could say, to number our days is to clearly see the whole of our lives through God's lens, knowing how few days we have, and how much they truly matter.

(2) The fact that we are not guaranteed a tomorrow, the fact that life is fleeting, the fact that we will have to answer for our choices and our thoughts and our desires and priorities, for our appetites and allegiances, these realities should drive us toward wisdom.

This is a prayer we should all pray: "**Help me to live my life with perspective and wisdom.**"

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this **morning**? Here are some nuggets of truth you can take with you.

- **God is** _____
- **Life is** _____...and can be _____
- _____ your days

Make time for _____.

Look for ways to _____ yourself in that which will live _____ you.

Give _____ attention to your _____ life.

- **Seek God's** _____ & _____

Pray that God would _____ in His anger.

Pray that we would be _____ in God.

The only way for our fleeting life to have ultimate value is to live it wisely before the eternal God and to avoid His wrath against our sin by taking refuge in the mercy He offers in the cross of Jesus Christ.