

Numbering Our Days

Pastor Jim Danielson

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Opening Illustration

Time-the greatest gift, the biggest responsibility.

Introduction

Each of us has the same amount of time today. How we use it will reflect who is Lord of our life. It will either be Jesus Christ or someone or something less worthy of our affections.

Three Realities of Life on Earth

1. God's purpose on earth is eternal.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. ² Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals." ⁴ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by. Psalm 90:1-4

According to the NIV study Bible;

“Psalm 90 is a prayer of Moses to God to have compassion on His servants who live their lives under God’s divine wrath and His sentence of death. It is a plea that God will yet show them His love and give them a cause for joy. No other Psalm depicts so well the dismal state of man before the face of holy God.”

His words are still relevant. They show us of our dependence upon God, the shortness of our life and are an appeal to God to help us honor Him now while standing on the edge of eternity.

The first verses show two realities of His purpose in our lives.

Two realities of God's purpose in our lives.

1. God alone is our [refuge](#) from trouble.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. (vs. 1)

Dwelling place means refuge. God is our refuge comforting us in life's turmoil with the assurance of His hope.

Be a guest room where I can retreat; you said your door was always open! You're my salvation—my vast, granite fortress.

Psalm 71:3(The Message)

2. God alone is our [reason](#) for living.

from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. (vs. 2b)

From everlasting to everlasting proclaims that God is always, has always and will always be God. Time moves quickly for us but for God it isn't the length of time but the meaning of time.

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Pt. 3:9

The question is, what are we doing to fulfill God's purposes?

Illustration

Jesus used time to accomplish His and His Father's purposes.

2. Our sojourn on earth is temporary.

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: ⁶ In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.⁷ We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹ All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Psalm 90:5-9

Moses compares man's lifespan with the new grass that sprang up in the morning in the arid Middle East but by the end of the day, it was dried up from the scorching heat of the sun. We grow up in the vigor of youth and quickly get busy with life's activities until our days go by and death nears.

“All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” 1 Peter 1:24-25

God wants us to consider three truths about our time on earth that will influence how we choose to live our lives.

Three timeless truths concerning our time on earth.

1. Our time is limited.

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: ⁶ In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. (vs.5-6)

Our time isn't our own. It is a gift from God. He controls how much of it we are allotted. When death comes, our work is over.

2. Our life is exposed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. (vs.8)

Nothing is hidden from God's sight. Repeatedly in Scripture we're told that God sees our sins.

...even the darkness is not dark to You. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to You. Psalm 139:12

This is both frightening and freeing. It's frightening to think of meeting our judge when our sins are revealed. It's freeing when we realize That Christ is our advocate and He loves us.

3. Our end is assured.

All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. (vs. 9)

To moan is to sigh. When our lives are over, we go out with a moan. I've seen people die and waiting for that last breath is an anxious time. It's filled with tension for those who keep vigil. When it comes it has a different sound. It is a moan.

Illustration

He only invested in stocks that produced dividends.

3. Our days on earth are fleeting.

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away... ¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:10-12

Moses' prayer became a plea for God to teach us how to number our days and it reveals the significance of our days.

The significance of our days on this earth

1. They are temporary.

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures;(vs. 10a)

Our days on earth pass quickly. David, writing in the Psalms, knew how fleeting the days are.

“Show me, LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. ⁵ You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. Ps. 39:4-5

If this earth is all we care about seventy or eighty years is too brief but if our hearts are fixed on eternity, then our work for the Lord has an eternal focus.

“...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt 6:20-21

2. They are troubling.

yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. (vs. 10b)

Even the best of days is filled with trouble. It finds us when we least expect it, but trouble does have a benefit.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Cor. 4:17

3. They are a treasury.

Our days are not just twenty-four hour increments in which we work, play, eat and sleep. They're opportunities for us to invest ourselves in service to Christ.

¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. Ps. 119:10-11

The secret is in learning how to number our days. We need to let God teach us and give us a heart of wisdom. The Bible is filled with help for becoming wise and worth studying to gain it.

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, ¹⁴ for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Pr. 3:13-15

Do you want a heart of wisdom? Are you willing to sit still and allow Jesus to teach you how to number your days.

Closing Illustration

They'd fallen in love with Jesus.