

From Everlasting to Everlasting (Living in Light of Eternity) PSALM 90

For this morning, 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, lawgiver, and prophet of Israel.

This Psalm contains the reflections of someone who is realizing that *our fleeting lives can have value only if we live wisely before Almighty God*.

Here's my sermon in a **sentence: We must live in light of eternity which means that we recognize that _____, _____, _____ and _____ are in God's hands.**

The Psalmist is keenly aware of some realities that you and I need to take to heart.

In this Psalm, the Psalmist tells us to...

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

Moses starts where every person should start.... by looking to the Lord. Please note that this Sovereign Master is a timeless God. The word "everlasting" 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.

In an affirming word of confidence God is said to be our "*dwelling place*" or "*refuge*" in all generations. A place of rest and refreshment, a home and a haven, God has been there for His people. Israel had a dwelling place in the wilderness. It was a person, not a place. Israel did not have houses to live in, a temple to worship in, or land to settle in. Yet they had a dwelling place in God himself. Generations come and go, but God remains constant in His concern and care for His children.

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 not _____ (90:3-6)

The second thing observed in this Psalm is that **whereas God is eternal, we are not**. Look at how Moses goes on to emphasize this point. He does so by contrasting God's eternity 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.**

When it comes to living this life meaningfully, we need His perspective, don't we? We are like the fool of **Luke 12:16-21**. Jesus **says**, *“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ “So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”” “But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*

Whereas God is eternal...timeless, we are not. We have a date with death. We have a limited time of life.

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

Our life here and now...our experience on planet Earth is tainted by the reality of our sin. Further, He sees and knows all our sin, down to the very last one. Our iniquities (*our unbelief, rebellion, disobedience and idolatries*) are before His bar of justice. Further still, our *secret sins*, the things we do in the privacy of our thought life and personal life are in plain view in the light of His *“countenance” (NIV, NASB, “presence”)*. Such a reality is a **comfort** on the one hand (*only He sees it all*) and it is **terrifying** on the other (*He sees it all*). Sin's penalty required God to crush His Son (**Isaiah 53:10**). God takes sin seriously. He will judge our sin

An average life, according to Moses, is only seventy years, or maybe eighty. But again, our lives are so fleeting in light of God's eternal nature. **AND** top of that, our fleeting lives are marked by *“toil and trouble” (v. 10)*. The one thing that most dramatically affects our life is the reality of our separation from God...our rebellion against God. Our view of the **past** is tinged by regrets, our **present** outlook is tainted by foolish desires, and our view of the **future** is tangled up in anxieties and fears. *We complain both when times flies and when it seems to be dragging along*. The reality of sin has not only limited the *span of our life*, it's also limited the *goodness of our life*. Turning from God we've turned from the source of everlasting life, and the source goodness and joy.

**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”*.

Moses is not suggesting that we consult an actuary table to figure out our anticipated lifespan. He is asking God to help us remember that life is short and to make the most of the days we have. He prays that we might live with perspective. **Those who number their days take a different approach.** They make decisions about what is truly important and give themselves to the pursuit of these things. They understand that sometimes they must say *“No”* to some good things so they can do better things. They want to live mindful of the eternal. 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 _____**

Generations come and go, but God remains constant in His concern and care for His children. It’s worth repeating: 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.**

- **Life is short...and can be _____**

The Bible tells us that this world is under a curse for sin, and the whole creation waits for that curse to be lifted. We read in **Romans 8:20-21**: *“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”* This is the reason why we have hurricanes, earthquakes, sickness and tsunamis and the coronavirus. The world is under the curse and judgment of sin and awaits its full restoration when Christ returns. So, is the coronavirus part of God’s general judgment for sin on the earth? The answer is yes.

Another thing we need to keep in mind is that all the temporary judgments we experience here on earth point forward to the final judgment. They are a reminder that this world in its present form is passing away. And they are a warning of the judgment to come.

- Number your _____

In other words, *'live in light of eternity.'* It's a cliché but the message is true: don't just count days; make days count. **Give priority (attention) to your spiritual life.** Life is short but eternity lasts forever.

- Seek God's _____ & _____

Pray that God would relent in His anger. Look at **verse 13.** This is really a prayer for the gospel. This is a prayer that God's anger would not be the final word; that God would not pay us as we deserve. It's a prayer that God would show us grace. **It's a prayer that has been answered in Jesus Christ, who bore the punishment for our sins and has given us grace upon grace.** If you haven't put your trust in Him, then do so today. Thank God that He has already answered this prayer in Jesus Christ and is available to you today if you turn from your sin and receive Christ by faith.

Pray that we would be satisfied in God. This is one of the best prayers you could ever pray. Our hearts were meant to find their ultimate delight in God. I love how John Piper puts it: *God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.* There is nothing that can give meaning and value to life like the reality of a personal relationship with the eternal God of the universe. To know that in spite of our finiteness and sin, we can know the infinite holy God in a personal way provides a sense of stability and substance to life that cannot be found in any earthly thing or relationship.