

Text: Ps. 90

Title: Make the most of your time!

I. Life in comparison to God

II. Life in opposition to God

III. Life in obedience to God

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. It's almost overwhelming to think about it!!! What would you do with such resources?

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off (注销, 报废) as lost whatever you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance.

It allows no overdraft (透支). Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back.

There is no drawing against "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

The major thought in this text is that of time and one is to use time in the most profitable way.

- Time is not easily definable (可定义的)

- The best man is able to come up with is that time is the conscious experience of duration or a period in which an action or event takes place. **Succession of events.**

- Now we live an age where time seems scarce – never enough to get done what needs to be done! Try to take advantage of every second – in order to get the most out of every moment.

- Yet, despite the increasing busyness of life – have you ever stopped to consider the most important thing you need to do with your time?

Deal with spiritual matters (属灵的事情) / things concerning your soul/ your eternal destiny?

Prop.: Make the most of your time! In Psalms 90 we learn the importance of a right relationship with God – best use of our time

I. Life In Comparison to God (v. 1-6)

1. The first thought that we come to see is the eternity (永恒) of God. For indeed in the light of eternity our lives must seem to be no more than passing shadows in a day.

The key here is to bring the Israelites into a proper perspective (角度, 视角) on life.

Do not overlook the first two verses which point clearly to the fact that God's existence is completely independent of all other existing things, including our existence.

The idea of everlasting to everlasting can be expressed as absolute timelessness. The idea of eternity is impossible for finite minds to grasp.

Anytime that God is mentioned in association with time it is for the benefit of the reader for God is not bound by time, although he enters it and dwells within it, he is also outside of it.

ii. Eternal

1. This declares that God always was and always will be.

2. This is God's infinity (无限) with respect to time.

3. Time is the succession of events – God created all events and things to Him stand succession less.

4. He comprehends (knows) all at once and not in the sense of past, present, or future.

5. He stands outside of time as the great 'I AM' and exists as the ever present One.

6. Parade example

He declares, "I live forever" Deut. 32:40

Ps. 90: 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. (诸山未曾生出, 地与世界你未曾造成, 从亘古到永远, 你是神!)

Ps. 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. (在你看来, 千年如已过的昨日, 又如夜间的一更。)

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

3. *Illus.: As D. L. Moody said, "Trust in yourself, and you are doomed to disappointment; trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you; trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast (攻击) it; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded (使惊讶, 使困惑) in time or eternity." Luther gave a similar testimony when he said, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." We must place our faith and trust in the promise of God to not only save us but to sanctify (圣化) us.*

4. Appl.: The truth taught here is the same for us as it was for Israel, although our lives seem long and significant to us, in light of God's eternal existence we are but a flash in the pan,

In relation to God our time is short and should be precious

Told to number our days / take into account what we do daily

Good reason / realize frailty (脆弱) / shortness / uncertainty of life

- pay attention to what you do / profitable use of time

Moses uses vivid imagery to show the brevity of life (生命的短暂) = quickly gone

1. (vs. 4) 1000 years – yesterday / watch in the night (Sleep)
2. (vs. 5-6) compared to grass – grows up in morning – cut down
3. (vs. 9) spend our years as a sigh
4. (vs. 10) given some strength – (labour & sorrow) cut off & fly
- Possess 70-80 years/ even that not certain

All our labour and struggle may amount to nothing if we do not have God's perspective on life.

In the busyness of life do not forget what you are ultimately living for / see your life in comparison to God

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

II. Life In Opposition to God (v. 7-11)

1. Moses may have in mind the specific rebellion of the Israelites in the desert, but there is truth to the fact that man's sin stands in opposition to God

- Even today in our age of grace God's wrath is against sin and that he knows our every sin, even those which we have so carefully hidden from all eyes.

2. Time we have is under God's wrath

- Moses shows the reason why life so short / curse of death upon us

- There was no death before the fall = sin must be condemned / destroyed

1. (vs. 3) man is turned to destruction/ return to the dust – made
2. (vs. 7) consumed in God's anger & wrath – (vs.8) iniquities /sins
3. (vs. 9) very telling = all our days / under wrath = due to our sin
4. (Again – vs. 11) Power of wrath overflows = poured in judgment

Who shall stand – light of the terror of the Lord for it is a fearful to fall into hands of the living God!

Time is precious = because if not saved = God is angry against you and your sin

You will face rejection and need to flee to only one who can help - Jesus Christ

Believe in Jesus Christ, repent and turn from your sin and make Him your Lord and Saviour

Redeem the time – while you have opportunity = who knows when your time shall be up/ face your creator – what will you do?

Did not an entire generation of Israelites die wandering in the wilderness? These words are written to bring those who are prideful and rebellious back to God!

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 - King Solomon's view seventy or eighty years.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-4 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." 3 What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? 4 One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.

Appl.: If God knows even those sins which you are sure are hidden from all, then it is time to confess them and be free from them, confessing and turning from sin are is the first step in bringing life into obedience to God.

What sins do we hide from God? Do you cheat your employer? the government? your family? Do you steal from God?

Do you hold grudges (怨恨, 不满)? No matter how meaningful our earthly lives may seem, if we are living in opposition to God, our life will amount to nothing in the light of eternity.

Do not live a life in opposition to God

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

III. Life In Obedience to God (v. 12-17)

1. Verse 12 teaches us two things: 1) To number our days aright- ie. to accept the brevity of life and the greatness of the eternal God, we must number our days to realize that our time is limited and

2) that we might use our days wisely, that we might not fritter (浪费, 挥霍) them away.

To this point the Psalm has presented God as an eternal, all-powerful, holy God of righteous anger against those who sin against him, but now we see that Moses also recognized God's goodness and his love, and that the fact was that his anger served to bring his people to proper repentance.

- We are to number our days/ for a very specific task (not just seek selfish pursuits with our time)

- We are to apply our hearts unto God's wisdom

The term "gain" has the idea of - to enter into something or to have a desire for wisdom to enter the heart

This term & the word "teach" are both in the imperative = request

Wisdom = something the Ps. Desires/ seeks after = personal interest

Wisdom = directed to the heart/ inner man = more than just the mind

What is true wisdom?

- We may think of it as having ordinary intelligence and skill. That use of knowledge that brings success even prosperity. True

- In this context = more than ordinary skill, but that every man faces God's wrath

- No matter how intelligent, skilled, or clever = never turn God's anger away by any effort or merit of your own.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

To possess any true wisdom/ understanding = ultimately centered in Christ.

Paul reveals the Christ is the power and wisdom of God – stresses that Christ's life and death were God's wise plan of salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 ²³ *but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block (绊脚石) and to the Greeks foolishness,* ²⁴ *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

You must properly redeem the time = seeking the wisdom of God

- Do not trust - own understanding/ spiritual matters = trust Christ

- Use your time to seek Him / all your heart = Wise men / still seek

God grants wisdom to those who seek it.

Another interesting thing about the words "teach" and "gain"

They are causative ideas – cause me to learn to number.../ cause wisdom to enter into my heart.

Ps. Focuses our attention on the fact that God is source of wisdom and grants us to learn and gain wisdom - does not begin with us, but with God

Comes down to Lord - Help me to see my days / use days - wisdom!!

A time management expert was teaching a seminar for executives. He placed a large, clear open-mouthed jar in front of the group.

Next, he put seven or eight large rocks into the jar until it was full. "Is the jar full?" He asked. Everyone nodded. Then he took pebbles and filled up the jar with the small rocks until they reached the rim. "Is the jar full?" By now, they didn't answer. So, he poured fine sand in. "Is the jar full?" Some nodded. He proceeded to take a pitcher of water and filled up the jar again. "What's the lesson about time management?" he asked. Hands shot up, and everyone agreed "No matter how busy you are you can always fit more things into your schedule." "Wrong," he replied. "The lesson is: unless you put the big rocks in first, they will never fit in. You must figure out what the big rocks are for you." What are the big rocks in your life? Giving time to God? Giving time to your marriage and to your children? If you don't put those big rocks in first, someone else will fill up your jar. Understand:

Every moment is a gift from God that must be managed wisely

Psalms 90:13-14 Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

The Lord is merciful and compassionate for those who seek Him with all the heart

Psalms 90:17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

He then establishes us and gives us confidence in our service and labour for Him

- If we wish to be significant we need to know that we are living in the light of eternity and only by obeying God and leaning on him will the work of our hands be established.

Someone has aptly said, "Living without God's plan for our life is like sewing with a needle without thread, or writing one's biography with a pen empty of ink."

Have eternal perspective, because a life lived for God, may even show little profit in the here and now, but 10 millennia from now it will have proved much more worthwhile than the short time of struggle we have endured!

You have 86,400 seconds today, what are you going to do with them?

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.