

J.J.

TIME FLIES
(A Realistic View Of Our Time Here On Earth)
Psalm 90

Psalm 90

A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,

Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

3 You turn man to destruction,

And say, "Return, O children of men."

4 For a thousand years in Your sight

Are like yesterday when it is past,

And like a watch in the night.

5 You carry them away like a flood;

They are like a sleep.

In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

6 In the morning it flourishes and grows up;

In the evening it is cut down and withers.

7 For we have been consumed by Your anger,

And by Your wrath we are terrified.

8 You have set our iniquities before You,

Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

We finish our years like a sigh.

10 The days of our lives are seventy years;

And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;

For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knows the power of Your anger?

For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

12 So teach us to number our days,

That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (NIV)

PRAY

INTRODUCTION :

Last year : One of Kuya Met and I's favourite conversation : "Ang bilis ng panahon"... before you know it, it's summer...and then "Christmas again."

Story : There was this kid who got a clock and threw it out the window. Her mom was horrified and asked the kid, "Why did you do that?" The kids said, "I wanted to know how time flies."

Today, that's what we will talk about.

Background :

- Most theologians believe that this was written by Moses
- They can't pinpoint "when" it was written because there are no evidences. Two thoughts : written during the Exodus or during the time that he was hiding in the desert.

The Key Verse :

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

In short : If we have a realistic view of our time here on earth, then we will be able to live wisely.

That's why David also prayed to God :

*Psalm 39 : 4 "Lord, make me to know my end,
And what is the measure of my days,
That I may know how frail I am.*

Etymology : frail "chadel" transient; fleeting

The Bible has always reminded us that our life here on earth is fleeting, temporary.
That's why it's always good to always look at God who is eternal.

¹Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

*²Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*

Moses looked at who God is, the one who is Omnipresent.

Explain Omnipresence again....

DAYS HERE ON EARTH

1. IT WILL STOP

It means one of these days, we will all die.

Quote : "... in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." - Benjamin Franklin
You know the latest statistics when it comes to dying? It shows that 1 out of 1 person dies.

*³You turn man to destruction,
And say, "Return, O children of men."*

Etymology : Hebrew word for man is "Adam **but the one used here is "enowsh"** frail man; destruction "dakka" dust

Note : Whether we like it or not, one of these days, without Christ, our lives here on earth will cease because we are mortal. We are made of dust.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.

***Quote:** "It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens." - Woody Allen

Death is one of the realities of life that man will either try to destroy, deny or delay. BUT...

The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that "in all energy exchanges, if no energy enters or leaves the system, the potential energy of the state will always be less than that of the initial state."

In short, anything that produces energy decays.

Example : This is why you get tired at the end of the day and you are not as fast and as strong if you are already 60 years old compared when you were 18 years old.

Illustration : Let's take a realistic view of an average man's one day here on earth and why he gets tired at the end of the day :

IN a 24 hour period, if you're an adult of average weight, here is what you accomplish:

Your heart beats 103,689 times

Your blood travels 168,000,000 miles

You breathe 23,040 times

You inhale 438 cubic feet of air.

You eat 3.25 pounds of food

You drink 2.9 quarts of liquids

You lose 7/8 pound of waste.

You speak 4,800 words, including some unnecessary ones

You move 750 muscles

Your nails grow .000046 inch

Your hair grows .01714 inch

You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells.

And that is just the average man. That's why you feel tired at the end of the day.

As Christians, how should we be reacting knowing that our life here on earth would stop.

But to a person who is a believer of Christ, here is what's happening :

2 Corinthians 4: 16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2. IT IS SWIFT

Here's a more sobering thought, when it comes to our cessation or death or expiry, here on earth.

4 For a thousand years in Your sight

Are like yesterday when it is past,

And like a watch in the night.

5 You carry them away like a flood;

They are like a sleep.

In short, you'll never know when your time is up, **it may come suddenly but no one knows when, only God knows.**

INSPIRE, EXPIRE : I went to doctor in the Philippines for a check-up. She placed her stethoscope on my chest and then said to me, "Inspire..." I was confused at first and then just picked it up that she meant to "Breathe in." After I breathed in, I held my breath and then she said, "Expire..." It got me confused again but I figured out it's the opposite of inspire so I "expired".

Come to think of it, all of us "expires" and all of us have an expiry date. The problem is we don't know that date.

EARLY RETIREMENT : Here in Canada, we had a doctor friend who was already preparing to retire. She bought a huge house by the lake and she was already decorating it because in 5 years, she said that's where she will retire. One day, she called her husband around lunch time and said to him, I'll go ahead to the lake house and see each other there. The lake house was just 2 hours away from their home. On the way to the lake house which is all country road and she failed to stop at one of the STOP signs and her car which is a brand new BMW got T-boned. She died on the spot.

IMPORTANT TO SAY : She was preparing for her retirement but she never thought she will have an early retirement here on earth.

Yes, it's good to have a retirement plan but make sure you have a secure and eternal retirement plan – OUR LORD JESUS.

Illustration : I remember my barber a month ago in Bramalea – he's an Italian guy. In November, I got my haircut from him and after cutting my hair, he said to me, "See you next month." The following month I went back and I saw flowers in his spot. He died 3 days before. He was living alone and died of a heart attack.

We'll never know what will happen tomorrow. Life can be cut short suddenly. It is swift. Some people put all their investments here on earth but you know one of these days, this is what will happen:

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

That's why Peter mentioned :

3. IT IS SHORT

In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

⁶In the morning it flourishes and grows up;

⁷In the evening it is cut down and withers.

IMPORTANT: God has never designed man to die.

Then why do men die?

*⁷For we have been consumed by Your anger,
And by Your wrath we are terrified.*

*⁸You have set our iniquities before You,
Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.*

*⁹For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;
We finish our years like a sigh.*

THE REASON DEATH CAME INTO THIS WORLD IS BECAUSE OF SIN

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,

Now the Bible says, the average lifespan of people here on earth.

*¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years;
And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,
Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

Compared to eternity, seventy or eighty years is short.

Illustration : dot on the wall compared to a line

James wrote :

James 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Some of us don't even live up to 80. Now, it doesn't matter whether you live up to 20, 30, 40, or 80 or 100. **What matters is where are you going to spend your eternity? Will it be with our Lord or will it be in hell?**

Look at the contrast :

For the followers of Jesus :

John 14: 1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

That's why?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To those who don't believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Revelation

But if we don't believe that Jesus has already paid for our sins on the cross, here's what happens to us.

¹¹ Who knows the power of Your anger?

For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

That's why in Letter to the Hebrews it says,

Hebrews 10:²⁹ How much greater punishment do you think that person deserves who has contempt for the Son of God, and profanes the blood of the covenant that made him holy, and insults the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know the one who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ *It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Here's what happens :

Revelation 20: 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades

were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Are you the person who still thinks that the reason you will go to heaven is because you are a good person?

The Bible says : it shows contempt (mocking, defiance, stubbornness) for Jesus Christ, profanes (shows irreverence, vulgar insults) to what Jesus Christ did on the cross and insults the Holy Spirit.

No, the only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ and by accepting and believing that what He did on the cross is payment for your sin, so you will go to heaven and one of these days your body will be resurrected.

That's why

Hebrews 3:15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

As we go back to our study :

*12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom*

THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE LIVE WISELY BASED ON WHAT WE JUST STUDIED, BY GOD'S GRACE?

1. If you haven't believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you need to do so. THAT'S THE WISEST THING TO DO.

1 Corinthians 1:24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

If you give your heart to Jesus and you let Jesus Christ enter your life, here's what our Lord said, John 11: 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

SHE'S NOT HERE : If you remember Ptr. Jess Roque, I attended the eulogy service of his funeral. One of his apos (grandson) told the story that one time he and his cousins together with their lolo (Ptr.Jess) visited the plot of land where their lola (grandma, the wife of Ptr. Jess) was buried. The wife of Ptr. Jess passed away around 7 years earlier. So they got off their big white van and went to the plot of land where the body was buried. But as they reached there, Ptr. Jess just looked at it and said to the apos, "Let's go home, she's not here anyway." It's because Ptr. Jess knows that his wife is already in heaven and what is buried is just a body. The real Mrs. Roque is not there, she's with Jesus.

2. If you are already a believer of Christ...

Matthew 6: 19 "Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Illustration : A wise businessman will always invest that will give him long-term secure profit. Imagine, if a wealthy person gives you \$86,000 a day for one year and says, you need to invest it and you will only get the profit after one year. **Where will you invest the money?** Definitely, you will be thinking of an

investment that is secure, and will give the highest satisfaction. We have been given by God with that kind of resource. **It's 86,400 seconds a day. Where will you invest your time in that will give the long-term returns highest satisfaction?**

Let us not be like this foolish man. A lot of people are like this.

Luke 14 : ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out and guard yourself from all types of greed, because one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶He then told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced an abundant crop, ¹⁷so he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to myself, "You have plenty of goods stored up for many years; relax, eat, drink, celebrate!"' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded back from you, but who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹So it is with the one who stores up riches for himself, but is not rich toward God." (NET)

***You know why God called this man foolish? He invested his life only on himself.**

How do you invest in heaven? You need to invest in souls.

- When was the last time you shared the Gospel? Prayed for a person that she will be saved or invited a person to church?
- How is your giving in church where it is spent in the Kingdom of God? Are you also giving to mission organizations that invest in souls?

That is how we can spend our time wisely.

There's a saying, "Tomorrow is not guaranteed."

We are all living on borrowed time. It's not ours. God lent it to us. So if He allowed us another day, another week, another month, or another year, let's follow what A.W. Tozer said, "Remember, it is not yours (talking about time). Your time must honor God, your activity must honor God and everything you do must honor God." – A.W. Tozer

This is how we should be numbering our days :

Revelation 22:12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

S.G.D.