

Living in Light of our Eternal God

J.C. Ryle, one of my all-time favorite authors, wrote the following words in the late nineteenth century:

Today's subject is one of which the wisest man can only take in, a little at a time. We have no eyes to see it fully, and no mind to grasp it; and yet we must not refuse to consider it. There is a depth of stars in the heavens above us, which the most powerful telescope cannot pierce, yet it is well worth it, to look into them, and learn something, even if we cannot learn everything. There are heights and depths about this subject which mortal man will never comprehend; but God has spoken of it, and we have no right to turn away from it.

The subject to which Ryle is referring is eternity –our God is an eternal God.

Eternity is a very difficult concept for man to grasp. God having no beginning. God having no end. God having no succession of moments in his own being. God seeing all time equally and vividly, and yet God still sees events in time and acts in time. One of the reasons why we struggle with the concept of eternity is because we live in a temporary world. In the world in which we live, there is always a beginning, and there is always an end. In the world in which we live, nothing lasts. Our world is ever changing, and its present form, according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:31, is passing away. Landscapes will change and pass away. Nations will change and pass away. Families and relationships will change and pass away. Plans, possessions, careers –all of these things are temporary, and all of these things will eventually pass away.

In our culture there is an unhealthy preoccupation with the temporal. Life is often filled with the pursuit of entertainment. Life is often filled with the pursuit of pleasures and amusements that absorb and consume our hearts and our minds. Temporal pleasures and temporal amusements that will not last. Everything in this world is decaying. Everything in this world is dying. Everything in this world is coming to an end, but our God is eternal.

What is especially disturbing about this temporal world, is that while knowing these things, while knowing that this world is passing away, the focus of many Christians is not on the eternal things of God, but on the temporal things of this world. Many Christians are so preoccupied with the temporal that they have completely lost sight of the eternal, and their lives, their marriages, and their churches shows it.

How do we redirect our focus from the temporal life that is right in front of us, to the eternal life that God calls us to live? How do we refocus from the temporal to the eternal? We do this by correcting our view of God. We do this by having a right concept of God. A correct and right view of God will redirect our focus away from that which is passing away, away from the temporal things of this world, to the lasting and eternal things of God.

A. W. Tozer in his book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, which addresses the nature and character of God, writes:

“The church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. This low view of God, entertained almost universally among Christians, is the cause of a hundred lesser evils

everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking.”

Today’s church has lost her awareness, and her understanding, of the splendor and the magnificence of the LORD our God. The church has lost her sense of the majestic glory of our Creator, King, and Father God. The LORD God has been refashioned. The LORD God has been dumbed down. What is revealed about God in the Scriptures has been twisted, and distorted, so that the god who is worshipped today is not the God of the Scriptures, but a god of our own making, a god who has been crafted and made in our own image. Or another way of putting it, as Romans 1:21 describes it, the revealed truth of God has been exchanged for a lie, and the Creature is now worshipped and served rather than the Creator. And the effects of this exchange are clearly seen throughout the world, throughout the church, and throughout the family.

Christians must have a correct and accurate view of God. Our view of God must conform to the Scriptures. The biggest responsibility of the church today is to exalt, and magnify, and lift up our concept of God to a height that is worthy of the splendor and the majesty of God, and we must boldly proclaim this truth.

Psalms 90 is a very familiar and sobering Psalm. It contrasts the brevity and miseries of human life against the eternal grandeur of our LORD God. Psalm 90 can be broken up into four parts:

1. Verses 1-2, The eternity God
2. Verses 3-6, The frailty of man
3. Verses 7-11, Man’s sin and God’s wrath
4. Verses 12-17, Man’s need of God’s grace

Let us read the text together.

Psalms 90:1-17, A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. 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, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. [3] You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” [4] For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. [5] You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: [6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. [7] For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. [8] You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. [9] For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. [10] The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. [11] Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? [12] So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. [13] Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! [14] Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. [15] Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. [16] Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. [17] Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

This Psalm describes in great detail the nature and the character of our God. It mentions God as a faithful dwelling place, as an eternal refuge. It mentions his immutability, God does not, nor will God ever change. Our God is unchanging. It mentions that he is just, that he is angry, that he is wrathful, that he is all knowing, that he is all powerful, and that he is eternal. Our God is from everlasting to everlasting.

Psalm 90 is unique in that it is the only Psalm in the Scriptures that is attributed to the prophet Moses. It is entitled, a Prayer of Moses, the man of God. Given his life, Moses would have certainly been qualified to write such a Psalm. He had a very unique relationship with the LORD God. In the book of Numbers, which is the record of Israel's wilderness wanderings after their exodus from Egypt, the sister and brother of Moses, Miriam and Aaron, were very critical about Moses.

Numbers 12:1-2, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. [2] And they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

The LORD God heard their criticism of Moses. The LORD answered their criticism in vv6-8.

Numbers 12:6-8, And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. [7] Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. [8] With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

The LORD God describes Moses as faithful in all my house, and unlike the other prophets, the LORD God spoke to Moses mouth to mouth, not in riddles, or with dark sayings, but with transparent clarity. In the book of Exodus we read something similar.

Exodus 33:11, Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Moses was more than competent to write this Psalm, because he knew God intimately, he conversed with God face to face, and mouth to mouth. No one else had as strong a sense of the greatness, grandeur, and glory of God, for Moses beheld the very form of God.

The historical setting of this Psalm is also important to consider. While there is some disagreement on the specific time in Moses' life that he wrote this Psalm, I believe that the historical setting is best understood by the incidents that are recorded in the book of Numbers. Studying the themes of this Psalm suggest that it is probably a reflection of the circumstances recorded Numbers 20.

In summary, the LORD God had just delivered the Israelites from Egypt and had given them the Promised Land. The Israelites sent out 12 spies to view and report on the land. Upon their return, ten of the spies brought back an evil report, while the other two spies brought back a favorable report. The evil report from the 10 spies really disillusioned the people, so much so that they grumbled and rebelled against the LORD God. The consequence of their rebellion is recorded Numbers 14.

Numbers 14:21-23, But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, [22] none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, [23] shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

Numbers 14:31-32, But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. [32] But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness.

The consequence of their disbelief, their contempt, and their rebellion against the LORD God, cost them entrance into the Promised Land. All of that generation, who were miraculously brought out of Egypt, by great signs and wonders, were forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years, until their bodies fell in the wilderness. This is the sobering and solemn setting of our Psalm –but it gets even worse. In Numbers 20:1, Miriam, the sister of Moses dies. Then in Numbers 20:2-13 the LORD God commands Moses to speak to the rock to bring forth water, but Moses disobeys the LORD God, and strikes the rock with his rod.

Numbers 20:12, And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.”

In the last verse of this chapter, Numbers 20:29, Moses’ brother Aaron also dies. Imagine how difficult this must have been for Moses. He had been aimlessly wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, because of the sin and unbelief of other people. He had been waiting for a whole generation to die off. Every time they broke camp, they left a host of graves behind, as they wandered from camp to camp. Then Moses’ sister Miriam dies, one of the few people who whom you could reminisce about your former life in Egypt. Miriam’s death would have been a reminder of God’s impending judgment on this generation. Then in one single foolish act, rather than speaking to the rock, Moses struck the rock, and was told by the LORD God that because of his disobedience and his unbelief, he would never enter the Promised Land.

Moses was almost 120 years old at this time. For 38 years he had served the LORD God faithfully, and looked forward to entering the Promised Land, but now his sin prevented his entrance into the land that he had so greatly desired. And then his brother Aaron dies. This is the setting for this Psalm.

Psalms 90:1-2, A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. 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, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Moses begins his prayer with the affirmation of God as Adonai (Lord). The Creator and Ruler of the heavens and the earth, he who alone is Sovereign, was their dwelling place in all generations. Even though, at this time, Moses and the Israelites were a homeless, wandering people, with no country or permanence, Moses recognized that their home was not in the land that was promised by God, but their home was in God himself.

Moses understood the difference between the temporary and the eternal. Moses knew that life was uncertain, so he did not fix his hope on the land, but rather, he fixed his hope on Adonai, the Lord. Moses knew that the Lord is the one foundation for everything, and that the person who anchors himself to the Lord, and trusts in the Lord, is eternally secure. In the midst of the desert wanderings, and the rising death toll, Moses found relief in the character of God. Moses found comfort in the eternity of God. In a decaying, dying, and ever changing world, Moses recognized that the LORD God is unchanging, that the LORD God was his home, and that the LORD God was the only refuge for his people. Before the mountains were born, before the creation of the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, God is infinite, God is immutable, and God is eternal.

Like Moses, and all those throughout the history of the church, we too are wanderers, we too are exiles, we too are pilgrims, we have no fixed earthly home. In our lives there is no permanence, there is nothing that remains unchanged. In a moment of time, everything that we currently possess could be taken away and lost. Our freedom, our church, our homes, our family,

our health, our jobs, our security, our comfort, our rights, even our lives –everything we are, everything we have, is subject to change. Everything that is earthy is quickly fading away.

Like Moses, take comfort in the character of God. Like Moses, and all of those throughout the history of the church, be looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. [17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, [18] as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Do you ever think about the eternity of God? Does the eternity of God affect your daily life? Does the eternity of God change the way you view your present circumstances? Are you daily looking to the eternal or to the temporal? Are you daily looking at the things that are seen, or at the things that are not seen? Are you daily living by sight or by faith?

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God. From everlasting to everlasting, God is Adonai. God has created. God has decreed. God is ruling. God is working through history; God is upholding all things by the word of his power. Never lose heart, and never be discouraged. Yes, the world is passing away, but our God is eternal. Yes, the world is decaying and dying, but our God is lasting, and the purposes of our God will forever stand –from everlasting to everlasting he is God.

In stark contrast with the eternity of God, Moses now directs our attention to the frailty and brevity of man.

Psalms 90:3-6, You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” [4] For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. [5] You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: [6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

God is eternal, but man is dust. God is eternal, but man is like a passing memory that is removed from our thoughts as quickly as a watch passing in the night. God is eternal, but man is like a drop of water that is swept away by the flood of time. God is eternal, but man is like a dream. God is eternal, but man is like a blade of grass that flourishes in the morning and then fades in the evening. God is eternal, man is not.

Commenting on these verses C.H. Spurgeon writes, “The frailty of man is thus forcibly set forth; God creates him out of the dust, and back to the dust he goes at the word of his Creator. God resolves and man dissolves.”

Here is a statistical fact, the mortality rate amongst men is 100%. Death is a sure thing. Death is a certainty. The LORD God has placed us here on the earth, he turns us about on a circuit, and when we have reached the last point, he draws us back to himself, and in a moment and we return to dust.

Moses likens our lives to a watch in the night at which time we are asleep. At bedtime, you lay down on your bed, you put your head on your pillow, and you fall asleep, and when you awaken, you are barely aware that any time has passed. How speedily our lives vanish away, as quickly as a dream in the night –as quickly as a blade of grass in the hot sun. As a college student, I had the opportunity to travel to Israel for a semester abroad, and I was able to take part in an

archaeological dig at the site of Masada, which was one of Herod the Great's military fortresses, and later is A.D. 70 it was the last holdout of the Jews in the Great Revolt against the Romans. One night we were camping at the foot of Masada, and it had rained very briefly during the night, which was very rare because that region is very, very arid, and in the morning there were patches of green grass that already sprung up all around us. But by midafternoon they were all gone, there was no trace of them, the heat of the sun had scorched all of the grass. Moses is saying that human life is like that grass, it may be fresh and green in the morning, but by evening it will be faded and withered. Man, in comparison to the eternal God, is as brief, and frail, as a blade of grass in dry arid soil, with the hot sun beating down upon it. In fact, the entire history of man is not much more than this, a scorched blade of grass that fades and withers.

As disturbing as this truth may be, the brevity, and the frailty, of human life is not even close to being man's greatest problem. In continuing his prayer, Moses recognizes that our greatest problem is not the brevity, and the frailty of our lives, but sin, which subjects us to the just wrath of the Eternal God.

Psalm 90:7-11, For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. [8] You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. [9] For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. [10] The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. [11] Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

It must have been a very sad and distressing sight for Moses to see the whole nation of Israel fall in the wilderness during those forty years of wandering. Just imagine, of all of those came out of Egypt, none remained in forty years, every single one of them was gone. Their deaths were not accidental, but were brought about by the divine anger and wrath of the LORD God. Their iniquities and their secret sins were placed before God in the light of his presence, and thus the anger and wrath of the Lord was provoked, which resulted in their death.

Imagine your iniquities and your secret sins, the sins of your heart, the sins that no one knows but you, are visibly laid out before the presence of an almighty, omniscient, and thrice holy God. This terrifying notion occurs every moment, of every minute, of every hour, of every day of your life. The exact same anger, the exact same wrath, and fury that weighed heavy upon the Israelites, weighs heavy upon sinners. God hates sin. Sin is a constant offense to him. Sin is a constant irritation to him. It is a constant annoyance to him. God takes notice of sin, and God will punish sin.

Proverbs 5:21, For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.

Nahum 1:3, The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Hebrews 9:27, And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

You may live your entire life in denial of these truths, but your denial will only exacerbate your guilt, and intensify your judgment. You may live to be 70 years old, or you may live to be 80 years old, or more, but just as the Israelites lived under the constant solemn cloud of God's judgment, so do all men. And your life will soon be gone, it will fade away like a blade of grass, and you will stand before the LORD Jesus Christ, the righteous Judge to give account.

As a young man, I gave very little thought to my own mortality. My whole life was ahead of me. I had plenty of time. But now, at 45, I think I am just starting to realize how quickly time passes, and how my time could end at any moment. Most people do not like to think about their own mortality, and if they do consider it, they think of death as being something that is very far off in the distance. The point of Psalm 90:9-10, is that what initially appears long, at the end appears very short, and our lives are soon gone, our lives fly away.

The span of our lives is toil and trouble. The years of our lives come to end with a sigh. The cause of these things is sin. Sin is the cause of our misery. Sin is the cause of our brief and troublesome lives. What is it that brings forth death? Sin. Sin always leads to death. Sin leads to the death of dreams, the death of hopes, the death of relationships, and sin will eventually lead you to spiritual death, separation from the LORD God forever. Death is the just judgment for man's sin.

Psalm 90:11, Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

I find this verse in the King James Version a little more clear, it reads, "Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath." Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. The power of God's anger and fury is relational to the amount of fear and reverence that we give to him. The wicked have no reverence for God and thus will experience the full weight of God's wrath. The wicked are not children of God, but children of God's wrath, objects of his just and condemning judgment.

If you are aware of this truth, you will not treat sin lightly. If you are aware of this truth you will not mock at sin. Rather, you will entreat the LORD God for his mercy and grace, which is precisely what Moses does.

In vv1-2, Moses exalts the eternity God. In vv3-6, he contrasts the eternal God with temporal man. In vv7-11, Moses recognizes the sinfulness of man and the just and holy wrath of God. And in vv12-17 the only thing left for Moses to do is to appeal to God for an outpouring of his grace.

Moses, recognizing that man is quickly passing away, petitions the LORD God for three things. God, in light your eternity, in light of our frailty, in light of our sin, and in light of your just anger and fury:

Psalm 90:12-17, So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. [13] Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! [14] Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. [15] Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. [16] Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. [17] Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Moses was a man just like you and I, he knew the difficulties of living in a temporary world. As Moses reflected on eternal God and finite man, he asks for God's help. Psalm 90:12, is a prayer that God will help the Israelites to live holy lives, which is the path of true wisdom. To number our days is to make every day count for God. One of the most foolish things a Christian can do is to waste time and opportunity, and to squander away one's life in half-hearted service to God. To number our days means that we will take full advantage of every opportunity to serve and glorify the LORD God. To number our days is to take every opportunity to please God, redeeming our time to for God's glory.

James 4:13-14, Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— [14] yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Life is a mist. Your life is a mist; it appears for only a very brief time, and then it vanishes. Life is as quick as a flash of lightening, the blink of the eye, and the snap of the finger.

Jonathan Edwards was one of America’s greatest theological minds, and over the course of his life he wrote 70 resolutions to help govern his life, especially in the use of his time.

7. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.

17. Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.

41. Resolved, to ask myself at the end of every day, week, month and year, wherein I could possibly in any respect have done better.

52. I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age.

55. Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and hell torments.

Jonathon Edwards was a man who numbered his days. He was disciplined in the planning of his time. He was disciplined in the use of his time. It is clear from these resolutions that Edward’s perspective was not focused on the temporal things of this world, but on the eternal things of the next. His entire ministry, his entire existence, was to exalt, and lift up, and glorify the LORD God. Make every day count; make everyone of your days count for eternity.

Ephesians 4:15-16, Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

The days are evil, so make every effort to number your days and to live them out to the glory of God. Pray that the Lord would give you wisdom. Resolve to use your time, your talents, your treasures, all that you are and all that you have, in the service of King Jesus. Number your days that you may get a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:14-15, Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. [15] Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Here, Moses is praying for satisfaction. He prays for the satisfaction that only God can provide. Moses is asking for God’s steadfast love, for joy, and for gladness, because Moses knows that there is no satisfaction in the temporal, there is no satisfaction in earthly pleasures, there is no satisfaction apart from the LORD God. And this is something that everyone of us need to be reminded of –only the eternal God can truly satisfy our hearts. Only the eternal God can give you inexpressible joy, gladness, and contentment.

If your life is void of such satisfaction, if your life is void of joy, void of gladness, void of true contentment, then you must go to the LORD God to find it. Augustine of Hippo prayed, “You made us for yourself, and our hearts find no peace until they find rest in you.” King David

prayed, in Psalms 17:15, “As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” Like King David our satisfaction is in seeing the face of the LORD God, and being like him. Our satisfaction, our joy, our gladness, and our contentment should come from same thing, from knowing and seeing the face of God, from having an intimate knowledge and understanding of who God is and what God has done.

In a temporary and fading world, in the midst of ongoing change, and uncertainty, nothing but delight in the Almighty will fill your days with lasting joy, lasting gladness, and true contentment. Nothing but the steadfast love of the LORD will fill your soul.

Psalm 90:16-17, Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. [17] Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

In closing, Moses asks that the LORD God would display his work and his majesty to the Israelites and to their children. He asks that God would reveal himself, and that he would extend his favor to them, rather than consuming them with his anger and wrath. Moses is essentially saying, “Let your servants and their children see the beauty of the LORD God in that, just as you are able to punish, you are also able to bless. Even though life is short, help us to be fruitful in all our endeavors, and firmly establish the work of our hands.” Every day that the LORD God has given to us, is a gift, and as long as we are here, we must live and work for the eternal and not temporal; we must live and work not for our own glory and honor, but for the glory and honor of God alone.

Consider the words of the LORD Jesus Christ in the gospel of John.

John 6:27, Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

The food that perishes refers to the things of this world. While we live, these may temporarily feed our bellies, but they will never truly satisfy our hunger, and the moment we depart this world these things will depart from us.

Proverbs 23:5, When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

The things of this world must not be our chief care or concern. Rather the things of God, that which will endure to eternal life, must be sought first and foremost. Moses petitioned the LORD God that he would help them number their days. He petitioned that they would find joy and satisfaction in the LORD God. He petitioned the LORD God for an outpouring of his grace – that the favor of God would rest upon them and that their work would be established

Our God is an eternal God. Our God is from everlasting to everlasting, and while we live in a world that is temporary and passing away, we are all moving towards eternal life with one of two destinations –heaven or hell.

For those who know the LORD Jesus Christ, and obey him, make sure to live your life, your earthly life, with an eternal perspective. Remember, your days are numbered, your days are a mist, a vapor, here today and gone tomorrow. Make the best use of your time. Live for the glory of God alone.

For those who do not know the LORD Jesus Christ, nor obey him, your iniquities, your secret sins are laid bare before him, and you are living under his wrath. And one day, maybe soon, you will give account. Do not be like the foolish man of Luke 12, who tore down his barns to

build bigger ones and then said to his soul “you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” God said to him, “You fool. This very night your soul is required of you.” Pray to the LORD God for his mercy. Pray to the LORD God for his grace. Pray for his forgiveness and redemption. Repent and trust in him.

My prayer for all of you, is King David’s prayer in Psalm 39.

Psalms 39:4-7, O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! [5] Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah [6] Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! [7] “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”

Our hope, our only hope, is in an eternal God. So live your life in light of an eternal God. Don’t be distracted with the temporal. Look beyond the temporal to the eternal. Seek the things that are above, set your mind on things that are above. For the things that are seen and transient, but the things that are not seen are eternal.