

Psalm 90:1-6, Part IB

We are immediately confronted with GOD's Eternality and our own frailty in the opening portion of this Psalm. There is much intimated when the Scriptures tell us of GOD being Eternal. The account of GOD's creation is where "time" begins. In the account of His Creation, we are instructed – "In the beginning, GOD". So, at this point and any point in history, even before history, GOD has always been and will always be. The beginning is not for Him, but from Him. It is our beginning. Time is known to us by a succession of events – it is the way we account for consecutive changes in the world. Changes do not take place all at once but in succession, one after the other, and it is the relation of "after" to "before" that gives us our idea of time. Every day the sun, by our LORD's Strength and Faithfulness, moves from east to west in the path He has determined. A part of GOD's Creation is this period of light and darkness called a day. The time by which we are bound is a part of Creation. We are bound by a certain number of days as He has determined. [Genesis 1:5 NASB] **5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.** We are reminded in this Psalm of the shortness of our time, our frailty, and that time is appointed by the LORD GOD. [Acts 17:26 NASB] **26 and He made from one [man] every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined [their] appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,** James, in his Epistle reminds us: [James 4:14 NASB] **14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are [just] a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.** You see, man's malady is not just that his time is short because he is also created for eternity. GOD has given man a soul that will exist forever. We are reminded in Ecclesiastes that GOD has set eternity in our heart. This means that we are created for eternity and made to dwell in time. All that is in us cries out for permanence and everything around us reminds us that we are finite.

I am reminded of a quote from AW Tozer in his book "The Knowledge of the Holy". "What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us." In essence, Tozer is making the point that should be obvious. "As" and "how" the Church thinks of GOD, so goes the Church. It will be either weak or endowed with strength depending on Its high or low views of the LORD GOD. We display our views of GOD by the way we conduct everyday life, even or especially in the things we consider mundane.

The essence of idolatry is to assume that GOD is other than He is. It is to substitute a created and vain image of GOD for the True and Living GOD that will always conform to the idea of the one

who created such. This god will be base or pure, cruel or kind, according to the moral state of the mind from which it emerges. A god created in the heart of fallen man will have no likeness to the True and Living GOD of the Bible. Listen to what the LORD says to the wicked man: [Psalm 50:21 NASB] **21 "These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state [the case] in order before your eyes.** This warning is also given in the first chapter of Romans, verse **21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.** Then we see how the unrighteous men who suppress the Truth were given to idolatry in that they worshipped the creature and not the Creator. These events were brought on and first started in the mind. This terrible sin begins in the mind. This why last week I began with the reminder that we must be careful of our own presuppositions, thoughts, and ideas when we come to the Holy Word. Let each soul be warned in order that we don't in our pride accept the false idea that idolatry is merely kneeling before some visible object, and that civilized societies are free from such. Idolatry is to entertain any thoughts about GOD that are unworthy of Him. [Colossians 3:5 NASB] **5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.** This shows us in the negative light the truth in Tozer's statement: "What comes into our minds when we think of GOD is the most important thing about us." Here is the importance for us individually and corporately as the Church of Jesus Christ to hold fast to our confession; that is to hold fast and grow, by GOD's Grace, a lofty concept of Who GOD is – when this concept in any measure declines, the Church is weakened. The first step down is to wrongly think about and surrender high views of our Holy, Majestic, and Sovereign LORD. All we have to do and what the flesh is prone to in order that we look just like the world is to get a wrong answer to the question, "What is GOD like?" It is possible for us; it is possible for the Church to have a sound creed and be dead. That is why last week I gave the second reminder – that GOD's Word is effectual. His people will abide in Him and bear fruit. Much of what is called the Church today has surrendered their high view of GOD and there is little to no concern for Truth and holiness. See how this looks to a fallen world! To see what is supposed to be the Church of GOD concerned more about entertainment than worship of the True and Living GOD.

Man must dwell in time, but GOD does not. We are given phrases such as these in this Psalm, **"from everlasting to everlasting"** and **"For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by"**. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Such statements in the Holy

Word express and instruct the heart that GOD is Eternal, Perfect, and Infinite. GOD sees the end and the beginning in one view. He appears at the beginning and the end of time simultaneously.

This is why He can say: [Isaiah 46:10 NASB] **10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; It is a struggle to convey these lofty Truths of GOD. It is the finite trying to explain the Infinite. No speech is noble enough, no words are high or good enough. We have used such words that can only be applied to GOD carelessly. We have made “infinite” to mean much or a great. We have made “eternal” to be simply a long time. The attributes of our GOD are not merely what He does, but they are Who He is. The LORD GOD, as we see in the opening of this Psalm, is Eternal. And to our delight, He has been and will be our Dwelling Place; our Refuge. GOD dwells in eternity but time dwells in GOD. May we not be guilty of thinking of Him as like us. GOD has no limits. May we by His Mercy and to the end of His Glorious Grace live upon the Truth of GOD being from “Everlasting to Everlasting”. See His Mercy and Love in the Gospel. GOD’s Eternity and our own frailty join to convince us the faith in Jesus Christ is not optional. Jesus left the Glory of Heaven, dwelling in eternity, and entered into time. He took on flesh. He entered this world through the womb of a virgin. The Scriptures tell us that as a child He grew in wisdom and stature. GOD the Son, the One Who is Infinite and Eternal condescended to His people in the most unimaginable way. In the flesh, He kept the whole Law that He is the Perfect Lamb of GOD that takes away the sin of the world. He took the wrath of GOD upon Himself so that we have true, eternal peace. He died in the stead of His people, and He took back His life. He is now at the right hand of the Father as our Great High Priest; interceding for us. This makes it certain – we will persevere because of Him. Out of eternity our LORD came into time to rescue His people. His people who are born not only slaves of this passing world, but slaves of sin and death. Time is a devouring beast for those out of Christ, but to those who are His it is that which we know will end causing the beginning of eternity. It marks the beginning of forever being with Him. LORD, please have mercy and help each one of us – that this is our hope – to be with You forever.

Amen