

# Psalm 90 – Making it Last

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, April 7, 2024

**Psalm 90:A** – A prayer of Moses

**Context:** Likely written during the 40 years of waiting before the former generation died off and the next generation inherited the promise land. **It was written out of concern for the next generation... and the next... and the next...**

**Psalm 91:1-17** – Teach us to number our days

## Our Foundation

### The Everlasting of God

**Psalm 90:1-2** *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.*<sup>2</sup> *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

**The mountains are used as an illustration because we perceive them as permanent. Illus:** Alaska photographs, cave art  
**God is more enduring than the mountains and He spans ALL generations.**

### The Vapor of Man

**Psalm 90:3-6** *Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, return, ye children of men.*<sup>4</sup> *For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*<sup>5</sup> *Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; <sup>6</sup> in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.*

Return – return to dust

**Time is a construct of God and His existence is beyond it. He is unaffected by the passing of time (power, knowledge)**

**Our past is like a dream, our life as a fading flower or a vapor... time is fleeting.**

**Why a Vapor? Psalm 90:7-11** *For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.*<sup>8</sup> *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*<sup>9</sup> *For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.*<sup>10</sup> *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*<sup>11</sup> *Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.*

**Man was made in the likeness of God and made to eat of the Tree of Life.**

- We are a vapor because of God's judgment of our sin.
- We know the general expectation (70-80) and the trajectory (increasing weakness).
- "Who knoweth the power of thine anger" – "Who considers the power of your anger"

**We don't often include decay/death/transition into our thinking like we should.**

- The lack of retirement planning, funeral planning, distribution of assets – **A societal problem.**
- Investing in your marriage, children, church, or job so that it flows smoothly into the next phase – **Most don't!**

## Transition

**Having laid this foundation, Moses makes some specific requests in the last part of this prayer.**

**His burden was the FUTURE of the nation of Israel.**

- The success of the coming generations depended upon the Home and the Nation.

**What was the goal of Israel?** To make God's name great across geography and generations.

**Where does this burden lie today?** The home and the church (commissioned).

**We want to try and be an answer to Moses' prayer.**

**The burden of our application is both the home and the church.**

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**Number Your Days**

**Psalm 90:12** *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

**We need to consider the limitations of our time (opportunity) due to God’s wrath against man’s sin.**

**Not just how much time do you potentially have, but how do you use the time you have?**

**Home (Children):**

**Look at the Table: Based on 18 years; Hours/Day**

		<b>Hours/Day</b>							
		% of		% of		% of		% of	
	Total	<b>THREE</b>	Total	<b>FIVE</b>	Total	<b>EIGHT</b>	Total	<b>TWELVE</b>	Total
<b>Years</b>	18	2.3	13%	3.8	21%	6.0	33%	9.0	50%
<b>Days</b>	6,570	821	13%	1,369	21%	2,190	33%	3,285	50%
<b>Hours</b>	157,680	19,710	13%	32,850	21%	52,560	33%	78,840	50%

**Church:**

**Look at the Table: Based on 70 years; Hours/Week**

		<b>Hours/Week</b>							
		% of		% of		% of		% of	
	Total	<b>ONE</b>	Total	<b>TWO</b>	Total	<b>FOUR</b>	Total	<b>EIGHT</b>	Total
<b>Years</b>	70	0.4	0.6%	0.8	1.2%	1.7	2.4%	3.3	4.8%
<b>Days</b>	25,550	152	0.6%	304	1.2%	608	2.4%	1,217	4.8%
<b>Hours</b>	613,200	3,650	0.6%	7,300	1.2%	14,600	2.4%	29,200	4.8%

**When you start to think about this, do you feel like you have more or less time than you thought?**

**Satisfy Us Early**

**Psalm 90:13-15** *Return, O LORD, how long? And let it repent thee concerning thy servants. <sup>14</sup> O satisfy us early with thy mercy; That we may rejoice and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup> Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, And the years wherein we have seen evil.*

**Moses understood that life apart from God is short and futile (empty).**

- Satisfy us early with your steadfast love (*hesed*)  
**This is a great evangelistic verse.**
- Very few of us here are at the dawn of life or the dawn of our opportunity.  
**Wherever you are at, with one day left or 100 years, there is no better time to direct your life into His paths.**

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## Make My Life Matter

**Psalm 90:16-17** *Let thy work appear unto thy servants, And thy glory unto their children.<sup>17</sup> And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: And establish thou the work of our hands upon us; Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*

## See What Matters

**We need eyes to see what God is doing around us so that we might work along with Him.**

**John 5:19** ... *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. **No one did this better than Jesus.***

**We need to pray for the next generation to see God's glory. How will they see it if we don't see it and show it to them?**

**Home: What will be the backbone and foundation of their life?**

**Mark 8:36** *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

**You need to look ahead and play the game out a bit. Keep asking... what then?... what then?**

**Church: Matt 28:18-20** – It starts with the Great Commission to the world.

**We have a clear overarching revelation and an opportunity to be engaged in something enduring through His church.**

**Even within "the church", we must be thoughtful and Biblical for our investment to really endure.**

**Illus:** We can all think of examples of churches that are not really enduring.

## Do What Lasts

**Psalm 90:1, 17** - *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations...<sup>17</sup> And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: And establish thou the work of our hands upon us; Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*

**The final request is that as we see what the Everlasting God is doing, we might fold ourselves into it so that our brief vapor of a life may gain permanence. Illus:** Handprints in cement

**Home:** Pour yourself into developing a faith that will persist.

**3 John 4** *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

**Church:** Invest your labors into people that will pass it along.

**Matt 28:18-20** – ... *teach them to obey whatsoever things I have commanded you... **And the cycle repeats!***

**The big win in the church is not just what you do, but what continues to be done once your work is finished.**

**Illus:** Grandpa's rental property

**John 14:12** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*