



Wisdom for Limited Time

Psalm 90

We need God's wisdom to manage our limited time wisely.

I. OUR MODERN DILEMMA WITH TIME

See *"The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry"* by John Mark Comer – Chapter 2 – "A Brief History of Speed" ... we are now living in a **"time famine"** = simply not enough hours/day to accomplish everything we feel we should or want to do.

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

Psalm 90 is the oldest Psalm in the Bible – written by Moses most likely after Israel's failure of faith at Kadesh Barnea when the nation was condemned to journey in the wilderness for 40 years until the generation in charge died (Numbers 13-14).

Moses' prayer is one for wisdom as he reflects on the reality of foolish choices and missed opportunities. It's possible to make decisions that lead us into circumstances that are not the Lord's preferred situation or best for us.

"For many of us the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them." – John Ortberg

II. WISDOM FOR LIMITED TIME

A. Remember your death: Our life has an expiration date (90:3-6)

The old Puritans had a spiritual discipline called “remember your death.” Seriously reflect on the reality that you are going to die, so that you can more intentionally decide how you want to live.

“It may be the case that (1) Christians are assimilating to a culture of busyness, hurry and overload, which leads to (2) God becoming more marginalized in Christians’ lives, which leads to (3) a deteriorating relationship with God, which leads to (4) Christians becoming even more vulnerable to adopting secular assumptions about how to live, which leads to (5) more conformity to a culture of busyness, hurry and overload. And then the cycle begins again.” – Michael Zigarelli

B. Remember that our lives and time ultimately belong to the Lord

Take time to do a personal inventory ... what do you really believe about your life and your time? How do you use your time? Do a time audit for a couple of weeks ...

In our digital economy, the commodity is our attention.

C. Seek the Lord about His goals for your life and family

Notice how Moses is described as “the man of God.” He did not start out as a man known for his relationship with God, but it is who he became.

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.” Jeremiah 9:23-24

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world yet forfeit his soul?” – Jesus, Mark 8:36

Take an audit of your goals ...

III. LORD, SATISFY OUR SOULS

“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.” Psalm 90:14

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Psalm 90:1-2

Moses learned that God was able to satisfy the deepest desires of his soul, because He is the fountain of inexhaustible joy and love. This same God came to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus still extends the same invitation:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” – Jesus, John 7:37

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider Moses' prayer in v. 12? What has been your experience thinking about the way you use the gift of time? Have you gained any wisdom in this area?
2. Consider the reality of your mortality as expressed in verses 3-6. Doug mentioned the Puritans' practice "remember your death." What are the challenges and the benefits of this practice? How much does your mortality influence the way you use your time?
3. Is there anything the Lord is showing you in this scripture? What could be your next step in responding to Him? Are you willing to pray for one another?