Well, the final days of 2019 are upon us. Every year seems to fly by more quickly…

Does it bother anyone else when people begin saying Happy New Year right after Christmas (and sometimes before Christmas)?

I’m like…, why are we in such a rush to ring in the New Year?

Is there a race? Are there trophies for first, second or third place?

There ought to be a law that we wait until mid January or something…

There is something sacred about the ending of one year and the beginning of a new one. It’s too important to miss…

**It is a time of reflection and remembrance.**

**A time to remember** the dear ones in Christ who have gone on before us…

Remembering that we haven’t lost them, we will see them again soon.

**A time to reflect** on the good/bad/ugly decisions that we might have made in 2019 and why we made them, so that we can make better ones in 2020.

Praising God that as we face the New Year, Lamentations 3:22-23 is still true.

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

 his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;

 great is your faithfulness.

Each new day He gives, brings new opportunities to go to God lovingly in prayer. Listening more closely for His wisdom, that our decisions would align more closely with His will.

**Psalm 90 – A prayer of Moses the man of God**

It is the only Psalm attributed to Moses, therefore it is the oldest Psalm in the Bible.

Back in the day, Psalm’s were written as songs to be sung during worship, and Moses wrote this one near the end of his life.

**How many of you think its cool to discover why a song was written?**

**What was going on in that person’s life, etc…**

**As Moses reflected back on his life, he wrote this song** to constantly remind Israel (us) of:

* Exactly who God is
* The destructive nature of sin
* Teach them the importance of growing in their own faith.

Moses’ records five things that he wanted them to sing and ask God for in prayer V12-17.

**Five things,** that I believe God wants you and me to continue singing and seeking Him for in 2020:

1. **Teach us to number our days. V12**

Moses (like many of us as we get older) faced the **uncertainty** of life and the **certainty** of God’s righteous judgment.

Moses was a man, called by God, to lead God’s people out of slavery in Egypt, to the land that God had promised their ancestor Abraham.

Moses led them out, but the Israelites complained **early** and **often** about their leaders. **Even blaming God for taking them out of slavery.**

They relied on Moses to intercede for them, and in doing so did not develop a grateful, personal trust & belief in God themselves.

Which caused them to rebel against God.

As a result, God allowed them to wander in the wilderness of uncertainty, led by their unbelief, until everyone over the age of 20 had died off.

Which was approximately 40 people a day for 40 years!

**Is there a TRUTH to be learned there?** Depending on the faith of someone else (Pastor/Parent/Spouse, etc…) and not taking personal responsibility for one’s own Spiritual growth, does not remove one’s responsibility **to** God.

I believe Moses wanted Joshus & Caleb to lead the Israelites in this song/prayer regularly.

Not as a religious activity, but a prayer to be meant, and believed by each person individually…

Is it beneficial for God to teach us that life is shorter than we think, that it’s important to have a heart that desires to understand His wisdom above our own?

Why do we have to die at all?

**Genesis 2:17** “for when you eat from it you will surely die”

The reason we die is because mankind rejected God’s wisdom and did what they felt was best. The result is the fallen world that we were born into.

A world where the example of rejecting God’s wisdom and doing our own thing, that pleases us and grows our own kingdom get’s passed down daily…

The wisdom of our culture teaches us today to live in the **“now”** and to disregard the **“when”.**

Why does God’s Word tell us these truths? Because He **loves** us, wants to **bless** us and **save** us from a life of wandering in the wilderness and eternal separation from Him!

I had asked that we sing the Isaac Watts’ hymn; “Our God, Our help in ages past” today because it is based on Psalm 90.

When he wrote it, his original version had **9 verses!** Most hymnals only contain 6.

The verses that are often left out are the ones that remind people of sin, death and God’s judgement.

But if you take those things away, and take away the very need for the Savior.

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Jesus came to take away sin (John 1:29 & 1 John 3:5).

By possessing a heart for God’s wisdom, we can avoid the pain of a lifestyle of sin and disobedience to God in the New Year.

Teach us Lord, then we will be ready for You to…

1. **Restore us! V13**

Israel had turned away from God, and He turned His back on them.

Why would a loving God do that? For the same reason a loving parent has to sometimes…

so the child can learn to respect authority, learn from their mistakes, humble themselves and experience the **love**, **restoration**, **healing** and **forgiveness** that the parent longs to give.

**If you recall from last week’s message…**

* If you want to experience God’s **love**, “keep yourself in God’s love” and love Him with every fiber of your being and obey Him.
* If you want God to **bless** you, then live to bless Him & others.
* If you want God to **save** you, then live like He has.
* If you want God to **restore** **you**, your job, your life, your relationships in 2020, set your life apart for the sanctifying, restoring work that His Holy Spirit is longing to do in your life.

Don’t expect Him to do it while you rebel against Him and others.

**Romans 12:1-2**

Over and over in the Scriptures we are shown, that is how not just to have a better **Year**, but the **best life ever**, and **the hope of eternal life** with Him in heaven someday.

But it starts by getting rid of any self assured rebellion that thinks you don’t need Jesus to be the King and Lord of our life…

**John 8:36** If the Son sets you free you are free in deed!

1. **Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love! V14**

Why?So that Israel could sing for joy and be glad all of their days.

Because as Moses was writing His Song, Deuteronomy 32 & 33 were also being recorded.

**Where Moses called the Israelites out on their disobedience, and making light of God,** while turning to false gods and idols. **Deuteronomy 32:15**

In these chapters Moses basically asks them; **what did these worthless gods ever do for you?**

Did they **give birth** to you, like Yahweh did?

How have they **protected** you, like He has?

How have they **provided** for you, like He does?

So you see, being satisfied with God and His Word…, as we have found in our study on Genesis, has a lot to do with keeping us from turning away from God, and curbing the further spread of a sinful example through our life…

From the beginning Satan’s goal has been to get mankind to **doubt** and be **dissatisfied** with God and His Word.

“Don’t listen to Him, He doesn’t want you to eat the fruit because He doesn’t want you to become like Him…”

Since sin is rooted in dissatisfaction, the key to a successful relationship with God is to learn to be content with God and His Word.

Which also means learning to be content with **who you are**, **where you are** and **however little or much** He has allowed you to have.

As you grow in contentment and satisfaction in God, and faithfulness to Him;

* He will make you a **new person** in 2020. Instead of being known for whatever you are known for today…

He will make you known for Gal 5:22-23 - love, joy, peace, patience…

* His plan may involve calling you to serve Him differently than you did in 2019. Are you ready for that? **Or will you be upset if things aren’t going your way.**
* He may bless you an increase in 2020 (not so you can live the lifestyles of the rich & famous, jet setting around the globe… **or as the Bible puts it;** “taring down your barns and build bigger ones to enjoy the increase yourself), **but so that He can bless more people through you.**

**Christmas time is probably one of the biggest tests of our satisfaction!**

When we have finally received that new iPhone, JoJo toy, or whatever it was that we’ve longed for…

The question is… Where is the thing you longed for last year?

Or maybe this year you saw what someone else received and said, awww…. **I wish I would have gotten that…**

Too often, once we get whatever we think is going to change our world, we find it doesn’t… and immediately begin the pursuit of **the next great thing…** Disappointment is a feeling that should cause us to ask ourselves “whose will are we seeking, **whose kingdom are we building?”**

If we’re not careful we can allow our lives to be consumed with the searching for the **person**, **place**, or **thing** that we think will give us satisfaction.

You’ll never be disappointed if you pray every morning… **“satisfy me with your unfailing love.” Your love is enough.**

And the only place of true **satisfaction…** is where God’s love and justice meet… the Cross.

**Teach us, restore us, satisfy us… now**

1. **Gladden us! V15-16**

I can only imagine the sadness and gloom of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years…

A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms…

Coming to church is something Christians long for! Not just on Sunday, but anytime the doors are open, because we come to worship God and hear Him speak **love**, **blessing** and **Salvation** to us through His Word.

When we leave church we should be the gladdest people on the planet! God spoke to me today!

* He loves me
* He’s changing me
* He filled my life with new purpose and meaning today.
* He used me to “spur one another on to love and good works” that will build His kingdom and to help others in need.
* He used my faithfulness to ease my Pastor’s burden and uplift & encourage my brothers & sisters in Christ.

So why are there gloomy Christians?

Moses reminds us to pray for gladness because, as we look back on the last year, it hasn’t been all peaches & cream.

Every year is filled with affliction… highs & lows… ups and downs…

But no matter how low and afflicted we may have been this year, God is still greater and because we are His (spoiler alert) we are on the winning team! We have good reason to be glad and rejoice.

1. **Favor us! V16-17**

May your deeds be shown to Your servants – Your glory/beauty/excellence to their children.

**God certainly did that when He allowed His children to cross the Jordan river on dry ground, to possess God’s Promised Land.**

**Over and over in the Scriptures we find the historical accounts of God blessing in miraculous and magnificent ways…** expanding the Kingdom of Heaven.

Of which we who know Christ, are a part…

Speaking as a parent and a grand parent… The greatest favor God could ever show is to continue **His legacy** through the children and grand children that He has blessed Dee & I with, knowing that they will pass it on to future generations.

Which is what God was/is doing through Moses! That’s why we’re talking about Him and this prayer song today… God answered his prayer! **And He continues to answer it!**

It made me think about the many Christian ministry leaders that we sometimes elevate, celebrate and magnify today…

Did they pray Moses’ prayer, asking God for favor to continue **HIS LEGACY** as they served Him through their God given gifts?

Billy Graham

The Gaithers

Chris Tomlin

How much favor does God want to bestow upon you, and His ministry called “New Beginnings”, where He has called you to serve Him in 2020?

We would do well to pray every day of this New Year that God would;

* Teach us.
* Restore us.
* Satisfy us.
* Gladden us.
* Favor us.

**He has great plans for you in 2020!**