

The Prayer of Moses (Part II)

Psalm 90:12

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Introduction: Someone has said that it is impossible to overstate the importance of good time management. Consider, “Time is the most precious resource in life. Once it has passed, it has passed away forever” (Fellure). We come tonight to Psalm 90:12, “*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*” Last week we noted that this oldest of the Psalms was written by Moses, sometime during the wilderness wanderings of the children of Israel. I suggested we could outline the chapter: The eternity of God (:1-2); the frailty of man (:3-11); & the possibility of mercy (:12-17). I pointed out that the eternal God is both our sanctuary & our security. Man’s frailty is seen by his brevity of life as well as the iniquity in his life. In verse 12 of this Psalm I see the prayer of man, the perspective of man, & the prospect for man.

I. The **prayer** of man > “*So teach us...*”

[Note the source of your time.]

A. This implies our belief in the **existence** of God:

1. **Declared** in Psalm 19:1, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; & the firmament sheweth His handiwork.*”
2. **Denied** in Psalm 14:1, “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...*”
Summary: Consider Hebrews 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is (the reality of God), & that He is a rewarder (the reward from God) of them that diligently seek Him.*”

B. This indicates our need of **dependence** upon God (our need to be taught):

1. His **presence** in Psalm 46:1, 10, “*God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble... Be still & know that I am God...*”
2. His **promise** in Proverbs 3:5-6, “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; & lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, & He shall direct thy paths.*”

II. The **perspective** of man > “*...to number our days...*”

[Note the shortness of your time.]

A. Consider the **brevity** of life:

1. Psalm 103:15-16, “*As for man, his days are as grass,,*”
2. Psalm 39:4, “*LORD, make me to know mine end, & the measure of my days...*”
3. Proverbs 27:1, “*Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*”

Summary: Note what these verses (along with 90:10 & 12) have in common: “*days.*”

B. Compare the **certainty** of death:

1. Scripture’s **declarations** –
 - a. II Kings 20:1, “*...thus saith the LORD (unto Hezekiah), set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, & not live.*”
 - b. Amos 4:12, “*Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*”
2. Soul’s **desperation** – see Hebrews 9:27
 - a. Man’s apprehension of death – Hebrews 2:15, “*And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*”
 - b. Man’s appointment with death – Hebrew 9:27, “*And as it is appointed unto men once...*”
 - c. Man’s appearance after death – Hebrews 9:27, “*...but after this the judgment.*”

III. The **prospect** for man > “...*that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*”

[Note to account for how you spend your time.]

A. The **attention** to wisdom:

1. “**Knowledge**: - the accumulation of facts.
2. “**Wisdom**” – the right use of facts.

B. The **attainment** of wisdom:

1. Wisdom defined **academically** – “The power of judging rightly & following the soundest course of action based on knowledge, experience, & understanding” (Webster).
2. Wisdom defined **Biblically** – Proverbs 9:10, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, & the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*”
 - a. The fear of the Lord involves the awareness of His **presence**.
 - b. The fear of the Lord indicates the acknowledgement of His **power**.
 - c. The fear of the Lord includes the assurance of His **purpose**.

C. The **attitude** towards wisdom:

1. For the **unbeliever**, what is God’s purpose?
 - a. I Timothy 2:3-4, “*For this is good & acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth.*”
 - b. II Peter 3:9, “*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”
2. For the **believer**, what is God’s purpose?
 - a. I Thessalonians 4:1-3, “*Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, & exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk & to please God, so ye would abound more & more, For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.*”
 - b. I Thessalonians 5:16-18, “*Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*”

Conclusion: What are the distractions that cause us not to manage our time properly – to keep our eyes off eternity? “The pursuit of the American dream, social media, TV., & many other tools are often used to cause us to waste our time until it is too late to realize what we have done” (Fellure). How can we best measure our days & gain (“*apply*” – gain or gather in as a harvest a heart of wisdom) wisdom? Our prayer should be, “*So teach us...*” This implies not only our belief in the existence of God, but indicates our need of dependence upon God. Our perspective causes us to consider the brevity of life & the certainty of death. And our prospect is the ability to attain wisdom as we give it our attention & have the right attitude.

What are you doing with the days you have left on this earth? Is this your prayer tonight: “*So teach us (me) to number our (my) days, that we (I) might apply our (my) heart unto wisdom*”?