

Sunday, 18 May 2008

Psalm 90 (*Modern King James Version*)

Psa 90:1-17 *A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.* O Jehovah, You have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You *are* God. You turn man to dust, and say, Return, sons of men. For a thousand years in Your sight *are* as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. You carry them away as with a flood; they are *as* a sleep; in the morning *they are* like grass which grows up. In the morning it sprouts and shoots up; in the evening it is cut down, and dries up. For we are burned up by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are troubled. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret *sins* in the light of Your face. For all our days pass away in Your wrath; we finish our years like a murmur. The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by strength they *are* fourscore years, yet their pride *is* labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? And as Your fear *is*, so *is* Your wrath. **So teach us to number our days, so that we may bring a heart of wisdom.** Return, O Jehovah! How long? And give pity to Your servants. Satisfy us early with Your mercy, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days of our affliction, the years *in which* we have seen evil. Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their sons. And let the beauty of Jehovah our God be on us; and establish the work of our hands on us; yea, the work of our hands, establish it.

Gaining wisdom to spend our time in the right way.

Time, the modern dilemma. The one thing we always run out of, and the one thing chasing us. But is it such a modern problem? Psalm 90 is seen as the oldest psalm ever written. It was written by Moses in the days when Israel was still working as slaves in Egypt. Even in this time, so long ago, the Psalm was written about time, and how people lived, thinking that they are invincible. They were not seeing the bigger picture, realizing that death may come for them, and that they may not be ready for it.

The “good news” translation states “**Psalm 90:12** Teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise.” As we have read in our excerpt from Psalm 90, it reads, “*teach us to number our day...*” But what does this mean? Moses is telling the people that we are only like grass. The people of Israel knew this, as they were working as slaves for the Egyptians, and their lives had no value to their masters. Even their babies were killed. Yet, they did not use every second as possibly their last, and they were making the best of it. They continued life, as if there were many days to come. Moses called to them, reminding them that this is not wise. He said to them that they must know that they are only as grass. They never know when they will be cut down, simply to no longer exist. He also said that a person who has this knowledge, and is numbering his day will become wise. They will not spend their time doing that which is foolish, and wrong, for they will know the value of time, and the value of every single second, as they come but once. So we are often also guilty of living our life’s as if there will not be an end to it, and as if we may not be killed by violence, in an accident, or suddenly die of a medical reason.

Thus, some people see time as the greatest enemy we have, but time should rather be our companion in life, that constantly reminds us that we should cherish every moment, and every second, for they will never come again. Every second is a gift, all we have is the present, for we know not what the future will bring. Knowing this will bring wisdom to your heart, and you will be able to live the life that will have eternal value, not wasting it on petty things like hate, greed, fighting and selfish behaviour, for that will not be the actions of someone with wisdom about the value of the limited time we have on earth. Go, and spend your time wisely.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. [david@davidniebuhr.com](mailto:david@ davidniebuhr.com)

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