

This Temporary Life

Psalm 90:10,12; James 4:13-17

Fairview Memorial MBC, February 14, 2017

Introduction

Growing up, I can remember my dad saying, "Lord willing, we will go and do this or that." Those are precious words which have taught me over-and-over again about God who directs time and my life.

In Exodus, we are introduced to Moses who spent 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in the backside of the desert tending sheep, and 40 years leading God's people out of Egypt through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. Moses lived a total of 120 years (Deut. 34:7). He would write Psalm 90 and state:

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 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 days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:1-2,10,12).

Moses said that man's days were 70 and if by reason of strength some would reach 80 years of life. According to the World Health Organization, our life expectancy today is approximately 71.4 years. The Word of God continues to reveal its authority and accuracy for life. For the purpose of this Bible study, the topic tonight is This Temporary Life.

In my life, I have contemplated this topic many times. When I have considered the loss of loved ones and the purpose of my own life. I am sure that many of you listening to this message have a similar experiential understanding of the brevity of life. Every person will have a birth date and death date. In the middle, there is a dash. What will we do with the time we are allotted? What will we do with this day? Let's dive in to James 4:13-18 to be reminded of this truth. I want us to consider 1) Obstacles of the Past 2) Overconfidence of the future 3) Opportunities today.

The Obstacles of the Past

- We were all born into this world.
 - We did not choose the day, the parents we came home to, or the place we lived.
- We have all made choices along the way.
 - We are personally responsible for all the choices we have made. Ezekiel 18:20
- We have all had others around to impact our lives in a good or bad way.
 - Some people have been great influences in our lives. Some awful influences in our lives. Some have suffered due to other's choices for them.
- We all have a past.
 - Some people are saved and live for Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11/ Philipians 3:13-14
 - Jacob- a Deceiver, Moses- Murderer, Rahab- Prostitute, The Apostle Paul- Persecutor/ Blasphemer
 - All are in need of salvation.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3, John 3:36
- How do you handle your past? Life is too short to continue to live in the past.
 - Seek God's forgiveness for the life you have lived. Ephesians 4:32
 - Seek the forgiveness of others you have hurt (if possible).
 - Forgive those who have hurt you.
 - By God's grace, make the most of any consequences that remain from the past.

The Overconfidence of Tomorrow

- James gains the attention of those caught up in the future
 - He gives us a picture of a business man who is making plans for the future.
 - We will move to another city, buy and rent a house or apartment, stay for about a year, do business, and make a profit.
 - There is nothing wrong with planning but with making plans without seeking God's will.
- James states that you do not know what tomorrow will bring.
 - The only One who knows the certainty of tomorrow if God. Proverbs 27:1
 - What is your life?
 - This is a profound question.
 - James answers:
 - It is even a vapor/mist-steam, smoke-like billows, fog that is burnt off by the sun, transitory
 - It appears or can be seen for a little time. "It is good to be seen."
 - A little time- a moment 2 Cor. 4:17 ...For our light affliction, which is but for a moment ...
 - Then, it vanishes away.
 - Other biblical writers have described life:
 - A flower that blossoms and dies- James 1:10

- My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle- Job 7:6
- My life is like wind- Job 7:7
- My days on earth are like a passing shadow- Job 8:9
- My days are swifter than a runner, a swift ship, and an eagle swooping to its prey- Job 9:25-26
- My days are few- Job 10:20
- My days are few and full of trouble- Job 14:1
- My days are measured like a handbreadth (measured with 4 fingers)- Psalms 39:5
- My time is short- Psalms 89:47
- My time will soon be cut off (70-80 years) and we will fly away- Psalms 90:10
- There is but a step between me and death-1 Samuel 20:3
- o What must I do with my life?
 - My days are numbered, so I must invest them wisely- Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. (13,373 days have passed, 12,177 days to 70=25,550 days, 80=29,200)
 - Since life is so brief, we cannot afford merely to "spend our lives," and we certainly do not want to "waste our lives." We must invest our lives in those things that are eternal.- Warren Weirsbe
 - We must redeem the time (buy back, use for God's glory) Ephesians 5:16-17

The Opportunities Today

- We are ignorant of tomorrow-" If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."
 - o We really do not know what is going to happen tomorrow. We do not have the power to control it.
 - o It is self-deception to think we know how our future will unfold.
- We only have today- the present.
 - o You boast in your arrogance of being able to plan or control the events of your life.
 - o All such boasting is evil.
- We should say. If the Lord wills
 - o We shall live. We will do this. We will do that.
 - We trust in God to direct our lives in accordance to God's will.
 - Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
- We must do good today. If we do not, it is sin.
 - o When the opportunities are available today, let us not omit our duty to honor and live for Christ today.
 - o Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, it is sin.
 - o We are to live lives of faith in utter dependence on God. Jesus said, "Follow Me!"
 - Descriptions of living for God today.
 - Which life are you living for?
 - What are the things you are pouring your life into? Philippians 2:17
 - Are you finding your life in this world, or are you losing it for Christ's sake to find it? Matthew 10:39
 - Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies- John 12:24-26
 - o You can count the number of seeds in an apple but not the number of apples in a seed.
 - We live expecting God's greater reward (Hebrews 11:10)

Application

- Our time is limited. Everyday counts. There is a danger in living in the past and in living in the future. Neither the past nor the future should hinder us from doing the will of God today.
- We must make knowing Christ and sharing the gospel personally and publicly the main drive of our lives. Philippians 3:8
- We must be on guard against planning our lives without God. Instead, we must think, "If God wills...."- Proverbs 16:9
- We do not worry about tomorrow- Matthew 6:33-34
- We endure sufferings in light of eternity- Romans 8:18,1 Peter 3:17, Genesis 50:20
- We are renewed day by day by cultivating our spiritual life- 2 Corinthians 4:16-17
- We strive for godliness with all our might-1 Timothy 4:8
- We save today in order to be a blessing to our family tomorrow- Proverbs 13:22
- We need to lay up treasures in heaven- Matthew 6:20,1 Timothy 6:17-19
- We need not fear: Matthew 10:28

Our hearts cannot get hard and calloused and cannot get so sensitive that we can't function on a daily basis, therefore, we must be fully alive everyday awakened out of stupor. We can live with the knowledge that Jesus Christ has conquered it all. This good news in the midst of the sin-cursed world will be a brilliant and radiant light reflecting the glory of God everyday. Let us take up our cross and die daily following Jesus in the places He takes us. This is a temporary life. Let's prioritize our lives around God and His glory. The wealth of your life will be measured by those who were impacted by God through you and miss you when you are gone.

Teach Me to Number My Days

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

Days on Earth

Years	Days	Hours
10	3,650	87,600
20	7,300	175,200
30	10,950	262,800
36	13,382	321,168
40	14,600	350,400
50	18,250	438,000
60	21,900	525,600
70	25,550	613,200
80	29,200	700,800

