

One Step Further - #4

Week after week we hear sermons. But many times we do not take *one step further* and really process and pray God's Word through. During this Psalm series there is an opportunity to take God's Word one step further in your life. We hope you will take this journey and encourage others to do the same.

Psalm 90 Sermon Summary:

Mosaic authorship is ascribed to Psalm 90 making it probably the oldest psalm within the Psalter. There are scholars who deny Mosaic authorship attributing it to post-exilic authorship (Mowinckel among others). Derek Kidner has provided brief but solid counter-arguments¹: 1) Some of the language and images of Genesis and Psalm 90 correlate, which matters if we believe Moses authored Genesis. 2) Similarly, the terminology of the Song and Blessing of Moses of Deuteronomy 32 and 33 possess strong parallels with the language and imagery of Psalm 90. 3) The gloomy mood is befitting of the difficult wilderness rebellions and the forlorn spirit of one among many other Israelites doomed to not enter the Promised Land. These are good reasons in our judgment to accept Mosaic authorship and it should be interpreted in this historical context.

Psalm 90 presents the sheer brevity of life (90:3-6). Man is like a grass that quickly springs up and is gone the next day. Conversely, God is eternal. He is neither subject to death, nor to the frailties of human experience (90:1-2). Betwixt these two opening concepts is the reason for why man's life is so utterly short, yet full of troubles. God's wrath and resultant judgment over mankind's sin is the rationale for such shortness and all its woes (90:7-11). But Moses offers a prayer that suggests great meaning and fullness can be brought to finite and sinful man through our eternal Lord God (90:13-17).

Reflect

Prayerfully consider and process the following questions related to Psalm 90:

1. Have you been living with a strong sense of how short your life really is in light of the eternal nature of God? If not, what has caused you to live otherwise?
2. Life lived without God on our own sinful terms becomes hard. Has life become hard for you and reflective of what is described in Psalm 90:7-11? Or, would you characterize your life as being full with the blessings of God in Psalm 90:13-17?
3. Is it time to make some radical changes to make your life count for all eternity?

Meditate

Memorize Psalm 90:12 in your favorite version of the Bible. This is the key verse of this psalm.

Psalm 90 is a communal prayer. Pray for East White Oak Bible Church, that we will not miss the fullness of God's joy and fruitfulness for him. Earnestly pray Psalm 90:13-17 toward this end.

Memorize Jonathan Edwards' great quote:

"O God, stamp 'eternity' on my eyeballs."

Apply

What actions would God have you take based upon Psalm 90 this week?

- Consider purchasing John Piper's book *Life As A Vapor: 31 Meditations for Your Faith*. It provides short reflections on various topics that will count for all eternity.
- Psalm 39 is a companion psalm to 90, which can be read for further reflection.

¹ Psalms 1-72: An Introduction & Commentary, 36. Note: His arguments are slightly revised by my own wording.