

Subject: *Using Time Wisely*

Scripture: *Psalm 90:1-17*

Psalm 90 is a psalm of Moses, which makes it the oldest of all the Psalms and one of the oldest portions in the whole Bible. It predates the psalms of David by 500 years and it predates the coming of Christ to earth by more than 1,400 years. It is not only one of the oldest portions of Scripture, but it deals with one of the oldest themes: God is eternal and man is temporal. Psalm 90 is a great chapter to help us put life in perspective.

There is a famous cathedral in Europe known for its three arched doorways that lead into the sanctuary. Over the right entrance are these words: "All that pleases is but for a moment." Over the left entrance are these words: "All that troubles is but for a moment." Over the main entrance is this inscription: "All that is important is eternal." Psalm 90 was written to remind us what matters most is not the temporal, but the eternal. Jonathan Edwards once prayed: "O God, stamp eternity on my eyeballs!"

We are stewards and not owners. God entrusts three things to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures. A good steward realizes the value of these things. God owns all time. He created time and gives us a limited amount of time. This is your time and my time in history. As we begin a new year, it's important to think about using our time wisely. It matters to God and it should matter to us. We want to please God and honor Him with our lives and that means using our time wisely.

- ***Psalms 39:4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.***
- ***Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.***
- ***James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.***

These verses in one way or another remind us that our time on earth is short and is passing quickly. It's like the dash on a tombstone. Someone described it like this:

*When as a child, I laughed and wept, time crept.
When as a youth, I dreamed and talked, time walked.
When I became a full-grown man, time ran.
When older still I daily grew, time flew.
Soon I shall find in traveling on, time gone.*

1. REMEMBER THAT EVERY DAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Someone observed that's why we call it the present. A person who wears an expensive watch has no more time than we do. His time is no more valuable than my time and your time. We acknowledge that God gives us every day. This will make us grateful, ***Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*** It will keep us humble, ***Proverbs 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.***

2. BEGIN EVERY DAY WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE

Some people get out of bed and head to work with a rotten attitude. The people they work with know it. We have a saying, “They must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed.” I wish it was that simple. Just send them back to bed and tell them to get up on the other side. But it’s a much deeper problem. Chuck Swindoll writes about the importance of having a good attitude:

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important that the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, an individual, a church, or a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

It’s not what happens TO me, but what happens IN me that counts. How can we start the day with a good attitude?

- Read God’s Word – ***Psalms 119:105*** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* Read a chapter in Proverbs every day. Read in the book of Psalms. Read through one of the Gospels. Read the Bible through this year.
- Pray with thanksgiving – ***Psalms 5:3*** *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18¹⁷ *Pray without ceasing.*¹⁸ *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- Get a good song on your heart – ***Ephesians 5:19*** *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

Don’t let anything ruin your day. Don’t let the weather ruin your day. Don’t let people ruin your day. Don’t let circumstances ruin your day. Don’t let worries ruin your day. Start with the right attitude and enjoy your day because God made it. Rejoice and be glad in it.

3. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY DAY

- ***Ephesians 5:16-17***¹⁶ *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*¹⁷ *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*
- ***Colossians 4:5*** *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*

Redeeming the time means making the most of your time. Focus on two things: your responsibilities and your opportunities. Responsibilities are things you must do. Opportunities are things you can do, if you are aware of them. In every sport, the best players are those who see the opportunities to make a play. In football, they see the field better. In basketball, they see the court better. In golf, they see how to play the shot. It’s the same way in life. Some people see opportunities and make the most of them. Ask God for eyes to see opportunities when they come. We sometimes call them divine appointments.

4. HAVE A PLAN FOR EVERY DAY

- **Organize** – Make a list of things you need to do. Plan your work and then work your plan. ***Proverbs 14:23*** *In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.* After all is said and done, more is said than done. We have more time-saving devices than ever and yet we have less time. Where does your time go? Keep a record of how you spend your free time.
- **Prioritize** – Do first things first. Dr. Rogers used to say, “There is enough time in every day to do gracefully everything God wants you to do.” You can’t do all things, but you can do the most important things. It’s amazing what you can do in just 30 minutes. In 30 minutes a day you can read your Bible through in a year. In 30 minutes a day you can strengthen your marriage or your relationship with your children. In 30 minutes a day you can get in better shape. In 30 minutes a day you can pray for your church, your family, and others. Someone offered this good word:

Take time to work—it is the price of success.

Take time to think—it is the source of power.

Take time to play—it is the secret of youth.

Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to love and be loved—it is the reason for life.

Take time to laugh—it is medicine for the heart.

Take time to worship—it brings life into focus.

Take time to pray—it brings God near and washes the dust of earth from our eyes.

Take time to be holy—for without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

- **Analyze** – At the end of the day and at the end of the week, take time to look back and evaluate. Have I fulfilled my responsibilities? Have I used my opportunities? Thank God for His guidance and blessing. Confess your sins. Take a few minutes to plan what you need to do tomorrow if God permits.

5. LIVE EVERY DAY IN LIGHT OF ONE DAY

That one day is the day you stand before the Lord. That’s how Paul lived. He wrote to Timothy: ***2 Timothy 1:12*** *I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.* Someone said that Paul’s calendar only had two days: “today” and “that day.” The person who is ready for “that day” is ready for any day. Only two things will matter on that day: our faith in Christ and our faithfulness to Christ. ***1 Corinthians 4:2*** *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* We need to realize that life is best measured not by its length, but its depth. What is the depth of our devotion to Christ? What is the depth of our concern for others? What is the depth of our commitment to know and do God’s will?

A person who uses time wisely uses his time for the glory of God. Hear these words of Charles Spurgeon: *May we so seek God, that when we come to die we may feel that we have lived for something; that although our hope has rested alone in what Jesus did, yet we have not made that an excuse for doing nothing ourselves. Though we should have no good works in which to glory, yet may we bring forth fruit that shall be for the glory of our Lord.*