

Poems, Prayers & Promises



Teach Us to Number Our Days

Key idea:

Moses prayed for God to grant him wisdom by numbering his days which would lead to a godly use of his short time on earth, godly results in his work, and joy through an eternal perspective.

Key text:

Psalm 90

A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD.

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- 7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;

- yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!.

Key points:

1. God has always been a dwelling place for His people.
2. Humans are sinful, God sees all sin, and sin leads to death.
3. We must humble ourselves and ask God for the wisdom to have His eternal perspective concerning time.
4. Living according to God's perspective leads to successful ministry and meaningful life.
5. Living according to God's perspective leads to God's success in our lives.
6. Psalm 90 is a Gospel prayer: we all sin, sin leads to death, yet if we reach out to the eternal God for mercy He will grant us His life.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How does Psalm 90 compare with Genesis 3?
3. How does Psalm 90 compare with Romans 1-2?

4. Do you agree that verses 11-12 are the key verses in this Psalm? Why? Or Why not? If not, what verse(s) are key?
5. Are there ways in which God has already shown you that you have not “numbered your days”? Will you commit to seek His wisdom on this issue?
6. How can we avoid the despair found in verses 3-10?
7. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
8. Have I truly given my heart to Jesus? Do I pray for the lost? Do I pray for God’s success in my life?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I share Christ with this week? Who in the body of Christ will I commit to pray for this week?