

Slide content for Psalm 90 “From Generation to Generation” 4/3/22 (70th Anniversary)

Outline:

- 1) God’s everlasting faithfulness (90:1-2)

Deut. 33:26 “There is none like God, O Jeshurun (name for Israel – means upright one),
who rides through the heavens to your help,
through the skies in his majesty.

²⁷ The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

- 2) Our return to dust (90:3-11)

James 4:14 What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Psalm 95:

⁷ ... Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways.”

¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

Blaise Pascal, “They fear the most trifling things, foresee and feel them; and the same man who spends so many days and nights in fury and despair at losing some office or at some imaginary affront to his honor is the very one who knows that he is going to lose everything through death but feels neither anxiety nor emotion. It is a monstrous thing to see one and the same heart at once so sensitive to minor things and so strangely insensitive to the greatest.”

CS Lewis, “In the end that Face which is the delight or terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us either with one expression or with the other, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised. I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important. Indeed, how we think of Him is of no importance except insofar as it is related to how He thinks of us. It is written that

we shall “stand before” Him, shall appear, shall be inspected. The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God. To please God...to be a real ingredient in the Divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is.” (From “The Weight of Glory”)

3) God’s return to us (90:12-17)

a. Wisdom

James Luther Mays, “Time is the medium of our mortality and so the favorite focus of our folly. We do not concentrate on the fact that we are given only a limited, though unknown, number of days and years and undertake to live them with wisdom. The young think they are immortal, the old despair because their time is over. Time is a burden when we have to wait, a scarcity when we are busy. It is the source of anxiety, illusion, remorse. Wisdom, in contrast, sees the time given us as ‘the unique opportunity’, the chance to be and do in the fear of the Lord.” (*Psalms*, Interpretation commentary series, 296)

Pastor T.J. Tims, “We tend to think that the realization of death wizens us up. But it doesn’t. **The realization of our mortality might wake us up, but it doesn’t wizen us up.** For instance, Earnest Becker, in *Denial of Death*, writes, “Modern man is drinking and drugging himself out of awareness, or he spends his time shopping, which is the same thing. **The irony of man’s condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death and annihilation; but it is life itself which awakens it, and so we must shrink from being fully alive.**”

The problem is not that we don’t know our days are numbered. It’s precisely the impending sense of death that fuels so much of our unwise living in our franticness and our FOMO. Our problem is not that we don’t know our days are numbered. **Our problem is that we don’t know how to number our days.** And those are radically different things.” (1/25/22 sermon on Immanuel Church)

b. Pity

c. Satisfaction

d. Favor

Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

1 Cor 15: ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Paul Tripp, “One day we’ll be invited to the one funeral we actually want to attend: the funeral of sin and death.”