

Teach us to number our days (Psalm 90:12)

Events in life that put things into Godly perspective – funerals – realize (1) what’s really important in life and (2) how fragile and temporary life is.

This is wisdom and we need this.

“So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

1. What does this prayer mean?

- a. This was a prayer of Moses – written towards the end of his life
- b. “Teach us” ==> we need God to teach this to us
- c. “Number our days” ==> realize that our time on earth is temporary; we face an eternal future
- d. “that we may gain a heart of wisdom” ==> the goal is for our hearts to become wise
 - i. Heart = the control center
 - 1. Our perspective
 - 2. Our decisions + actions

2. Why does God want us to have a heart of wisdom that comes from numbering our days?

- a. Set our hearts on our eternal home and future with Him (Airport analogy)
 - i. Salvation – we need to be made right with God through Jesus
 - ii. Wise perspectives on difficulties and sufferings on earth – they will not last forever – we will be delivered – it’s a matter of when (whether during time on earth or in eternity)
 - iii. Wise perspective on blessings on earth
 - 1. Our hearts long for good things, and when we have them, we want them to last “forever”
 - a. Relationships – “forever family” / “love forever”
 - b. Our looks – skincare, health
 - c. Possessions
 - d. Legacy

2. But these are all “numbered” – they will all come to an end
 - a. Enjoy, thank God for them; but not place our eternal hope in them; no idolize them
- b. Overcome fear and hesitation / delayed obedience
 - i. How do we view death?
 1. Acceptance vs. denial
 2. Anticipation of eternal future with God vs. dread of loss of what we have on earth
 - a. Asia culture – “don’t mention 4”
 - b. Example of airport – “don’t utter the “B” word”
 - ii. Obey now, not later
 1. Forgiveness
 2. Love and serve others
 3. Witness and disciple
 4. Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit

3. How do we number our days to gain this wisdom?

- a. Pray that God would teach us
- b. Spend time in the Word – let the Word of God marinate our minds and souls and we will have eternal perspective and hope
- c. Comfort those who mourn
 - i. Being at a funeral, and spend time with those who have lost their loved ones
- d. With one important person in your life, take a moment to visualize their funeral – how you would feel, what would you say in your eulogy. Then see them alive today – how would that change how you treat them today.
- e. Visualize your own funeral – see yourself as a jar of ashes or lifeless body, being buried into the ground. How should you live between now and then.