

The Brevity Of Life

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A fact that many do not wish to consider is just how brief our lives really are. It is ignored because men do not like to think about their lives ending. Yet, people are dying daily! Rather than run from the truth, let us strive to understand and accept our own mortality. Let us use this truth to help encourage ourselves and others to get our lives right with God while we still can (II Cor. 6:2). The Bible speaks of the brevity of life. Thus, it is a subject we need to consider well.

Our Lifespan Is Short.

Psalm 90:10 tells us: *"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."* Other passages that state the short lifespan of man include Job 7:6; 14:1-2; Psalm 39:5; James 4:14; I Peter 1:24; and I John 2:17. In this psalm, Moses declared that seventy or eighty years is the average age of man. This is still true today! While we recognize that there are exceptions, most men and women will not live past the age of 80. Thus, we have about "fourscore" years to get our lives right! How are we doing along that line? It is very important that we live for God while we can (Prov. 27:1).

Our Days Are Numbered.

Psalm 139:16 shows us this truth. David said, *"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."* The NKJV renders the last part of this verse, "And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them." Moses said a similar thing in Psalm 90:12. There we read, *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* We do not know when we will die, but God has numbered our days. Let us not take our life and time on earth for granted.

Our Life Is As A Vapor.

In the book of James, chapter 4, verse 14, we read, *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."* How important it is that we realize this truth. When people talk about their age, and how swiftly their life has gone, it reflects on this passage. Jacob even commented on his short lifespan at 130 years old (Gen. 47:9)! Our life is just like a vapor. We are here only for a little while and then we pass away. How is your life? Are you focusing on what is most important

Eternity Is Long.

The Bible assures us that just as this life is short, eternity is long. It will continue without end. It is described as "everlasting" in reference to the punishment, or the rest received by the people in Matthew 25:46. Eternity is described as something that has no end. Thus it is with our spirit. It will enter eternity to face either eternal rest, or eternal damnation depending on our manner of life while on this earth. There is no end to eternity. I believe it is described best in the old song "Amazing Grace". Verse 5 says, "When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun; We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun." Rest assured, you and I will not escape eternity!

Are You Prepared?

Knowing that this life is brief, and that eternity is without end, what preparations have you made for eternity? Hebrews 12:1 declares, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"* Let us be prepared for eternity by running life's race with patience, and never giving up! As Peter discussed the end of time and the destruction of this world, he said in II Peter 3:11, *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,"* Are you being holy and godly as you ought to be? If not, you need to change and live pleasing to God in this short life, so you can gain Heaven when this life is over. Remember, your days are numbered by God. It is like a vapor. Do not let an opportunity to be saved pass you by as Agrippa did in Acts 26:28. Obey God today before your life ends (Mk. 16:16; II Cor. 6:2; Acts 22:16)!

Submitted by Larry Driver

Ten Rules For Misunderstanding The Bible Doy Moyer

1. Tell yourself you can't understand it, that it's impossible for everyone to understand it alike (Eph. 5:17).
2. Think on a carnal level (Rom. 8:5,6; Col. 3:12; I Cor. 2:14f)
3. Make up your mind about what you believe before you ever open the Bible (Rom. 10:3).
4. Take every Scripture out of context and apply to whatever you wish (II Pet. 3:16).
5. Never look at parallel verses. It might ruin your applications.
6. Don't bring together all vrs. dealing with a particular subject. That would be fatal to misunderstanding.
7. Never ask for help or accept anyone's offer to study with you (Acts 8:30-31).
8. Be "picky" and "choosey"; that is, pick and choose whatever you like and disregard the rest.
9. Take the attitude that says, "It doesn't matter what you believe." That way you'll have an excuse when you find a passage you don't like (II John 9).
10. Finally, accept your feelings and not the Bible as the final authority. Decide that you are not going to do what the Bible says if you don't want to (Rom. 10:16; John 12:48).

If you follow these rules, you'll be sure to misunderstand and misapply the Bible. There is a catch, however: be ready to lose your soul (II Pet. 3:16; II Thess.1:7-9).

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