

Teach Us to Number Our Days

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Psalm 90:12 records the words of the Psalmist when he asks God to teach him how to number his days. The Psalmist has contrasted the eternal and powerful nature of God with man, who is weak and transitory.

Teach us — we should all desire the teachings of God today. Many unfortunately do not wish to learn from God. David shows in many of the Psalms he penned that one should desire the Word of God. There are not many like the Ethiopian eunuch who are looking for someone to teach them what they read in the Bible. In our society, the Bible is so readily accessible yet found to be untouched by many. Peter talks in 1 Peter 2 about desiring the pure milk of the word in order to grow. The only way one grows is through the Word of God. Surveys estimate less than 11% of Americans read the Bible daily, while yet many more claim belief that it is the inspired Word. If it is truly the inspired Word from the creator of the universe, why do not more look to it for answers in life?

To number our days — The Psalmist is speaking of things we cannot do. We cannot number our days for we do not know when we will die, or less how many nights remain. The idea behind it though is to prepare for the life after this. If people knew they would die tomorrow, many would seek to ensure that they were prepared for what comes after this. You see many who face death scares or those who have someone close to them pass on, they begin to put things in perspective. This is what the Psalmist is talking about. He realizes that life passes rapidly. In the blink of an eye, years go by and end. Psalm 90:5-6, 9-10 echo this idea. They are compared to grass sprouting new, and then fades away. Job echoes this when he speaks in Job 14:1-2. He describes man's life as a flower that comes forth and withers. One's life can be lost at any moment. David in making his covenant with Jonathan said that his life was less than a step from death. (1 Samuel 20:3) Death eventually comes to all. It cannot be escaped. (Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 9:5) Some act as if they will live forever by not planning, preparing, and taking responsibility for their life. Live each day as if it were your last, and you could face God that day. In doing so, you prepare yourself for that coming day.

That we may apply our hearts to wisdom — The Psalmist ends this thought with his reasoning. He wishes to learn how to number his days and live accordingly to apply the proper attitude to his actions. Simply live wisely. (Colossians 4:5, Ecclesiastes 8:5, Ephesians 5:15-16) Time is precious and should never be wasted. We should view life as a whole, as if we were looking

back on it. What would we change? Where would we differ in order to do better? What ever the answers are to those questions, implement them now to live wisely. To apply our hearts in wisdom is to realize that some things are more important than others — God, service to Him, family, etc. Someone once said, “Many of us spend our lives chasing rainbows, that even if we could catch them, they would be worthless to us.” Remember in the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus tells those to seek first the kingdom of God! Do not let the little things of life become so urgent that they overshadow the important things in life. One day, you might wake up and find you have wasted most of your life on trivial matters.

Sometimes, we fixate on make sure each day goes perfectly and runs smoothly that we become encompassed with it, and let frustrations cloud out the important things in life. May we learn to number our days in order to live wisely. — **CW**