

New Year's Eve
Dec. 31, 2019
Psalm 90:1-4

In Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today and throughout everyone of our tomorrow's, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

How often haven't you heard someone say, "Boy, how time flies," or "the older you get the faster time goes." It is always amazing how fast the old year passes and a new year rolls around. At the end of the old year, or as each birthday arrives we sense how responsible we are for the use of our time, our life, our talents and our possessions. It is a time to reflect back on our failures and frustrations, on our sins and our shortcomings and seek forgiveness for wasted time and talents. It is also a time to count our many blessings and to give thanks. But it is also a time to look forward with eager anticipation to the future. What will the future, our future bring? May this little verse help as we look forward into the unknown 2020 and beyond;

**YESTERDAY GOD HELPED ME; TODAY HE DID THE SAME,
HOW LONG WILL THIS CONTINUE? FOREVER! PRAISE HIS NAME!**

Moses is the writer of this the oldest Psalm. Three of the main thoughts in this Psalm are:

1. **We see the brevity of human life and are led to appreciate the timelessness of God.**
2. **Our mortality is because of our sins with which God is greatly displeased.**
3. **We seek forgiveness in Christ and are encouraged to become wise stewards of our time.**

The opening verses briefly proclaim the eternalness of God so that it may be contrasted with the mortality of mankind. God's eternity is not simply described as opposite our mortality, but it is proclaimed as the answer to our mortality. Since God is immortal and eternal, He alone can be a dwelling place for His people throughout all generations. This dwelling place is a refuge and comfort with God in the midst of change and decay and the rapid flight of time. Though we experience change and decay, God remains unchanged. Before the earth was created, as long as it endures, and long after it is gone, God is always the same.

The eternalness of God is inconceivable and incomprehensible to us mortals. However, with the example that Moses gives us, that **A THOUSAND YEARS IN (GOD'S) SIGHT ARE LIKE YESTERDAY WHEN IT IS PAST, AND LIKE A WATCH IN THE NIGHT**, we can begin to get some picture of divine infinity. God is above time and rules time. In God there is no difference of time. Eternity is an everlasting now, an everlasting today, never a yesterday or a tomorrow. How awesome our God is!

Sing next 4 verses....

Psalm 90:5-11

The real cause of our being carried away like a flood and withering like cut grass is not natural weakness, sickness or human violence. All of these may be secondary causes, but the real cause of death is God's judgment against our sin.

God did not create man to die, but death has become our life sentence. God had warned Adam and Eve that the consequence of disobedience would be death. Yet, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and so death came to them and to all of their descendents throughout all generations. So one generation goes and another comes, only to also depart some day. **"THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH!** Death is that separation of the body from the soul. God returns the body to the dust of the ground from which it came and the soul of the believer returns to God who redeemed it.

Because of sin the life span of human beings is short. Seventy, eighty, maybe ninety years are not long when compared with God's eternity or even compared to human history. Often human life is much shorter---dying in infancy, or as a youth or in early adulthood. Life can be snuffed out in an instant. Compared to what it could have been if Adam and Eve had continually obeyed God, the life of human beings is as fragile and short as the life of grass. It grows for a time and then is cut and dries up.

Death is a judgment of God's wrath and God's wrath is caused by our sin. Because of sin our lives are filled with sorrow and afflictions. Difficulties, illnesses, accidents plague the whole life-span of our human existence. The evils of life are a daily reminder of the seriousness of sin and the greatness of our eternal God's anger against sin. Sin is much greater and deeper than we can understand. We do not see into sin's abyss, but our God does. We cannot conceive how great our debt to God is. But our God knows. He sees our secret sins. He perceives our thoughts and evil desires. He knows how deeply sin is rooted in our hearts and He lays upon us the judgment of His wrath, which is death.

This real cause of death is hidden to the world. They are unaware that man's sin has brought about death, that sin is such a terrible thing. Only the believer can realize and confess this and submit to the judgment of God's wrath. Every death is a preaching of a mighty sermon by God—It is God's Law proclaiming that this death came about because of this person's sins.

Moses has revealed in these verses that our whole life, as well as the end of our life lies under God's wrath. It is indeed a powerful and mighty wrath by which He rules over our lives from beginning to end. But who is aware of this? Who knows the power of Your anger, Moses asks? Not many!

Many people try to suppress this knowledge and ignore God and push His Word aside. They live as if there were no God and no death. To others, God's wrath against sin seems unreasonable, cruel and excessive. But we do not yet know the full extent of God's wrath. Only hell will reveal that. God's wrath against sin is proportionate to the seriousness of sin. Sin is an offense against a limitless God. Sin therefore deserves limitless punishment. For the guilty sinner there is no escape—no escape except by the grace of God.

Sing next 5 verses

Psalm 90:12-17

Moses concludes this marvelous introspective Psalm with two main points. One is a plea for mercy and forgiveness. We do not deserve to be forgiven or to have our years prolonged and blessed, but we pray that God in His grace will forgive us our sins through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ and that He will give us the time and the wisdom to serve Him faithfully on this earth. Such labor and work in the Lord brings joy to all the days of our lives. Only the work that we do for the Gospel of forgiveness and life in Christ can produce fruits which will last and endure into eternity. **“One life to live, ‘twill soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last.”** We pray that God will establish and bless our work for the Gospel so that they will bear fruit for us, for our children and for the generations to come.

The second plea is for understanding and wisdom. As we daily observe sin and death all around us, we are warned to make the best use of our time of grace which God has given us, since death is inevitable. Scripture warns us against being like the rich man who accumulated treasure on earth, but forgot about the needs of his soul. Since we have only one life to live and that one life is short, we need to use it to gain the wisdom which comes from God through His Word. That wisdom is believing that **ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD**, but we are **JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS**.

What is really enduring? Calendars and clocks sometimes rule our lives on earth. But they cannot ultimately hold us in bondage. Our God is eternal, and we shall spend eternity with Him, thanks to Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.

In light of this, everyday of our life should count for eternity. We ought to value all we do in the light of life's brevity and eternity's endlessness. For even though death reigns on earth and one generation after another perishes, God's work and Word goes on through time.

May 2020 be such a year of gaining a heart of wisdom, making the best use of our time and spreading that Word to others. Amen. **Sing next 4 verses**