

The Psalms:
SONGS TO KEEP YOUR LIFE IN TUNE

It's Not
**HOW LONG
YOU LIVE**
But **HOW WELL**

Psalm 90

MESSAGE GUIDE
JUNE 28, 2020



It's Not How Long You Live But How Well

Today's Message (28 June 2020) / *Psalm 90*

WE ARE
ALLOTTED BY
GOD ONLY SO
MUCH TIME.
THEREFORE,
WE MUST LIVE
STRATEGICALLY
IN LIGHT OF
ETERNITY.

Will you live till tomorrow? Are you sure? Will you make it to next week? Next month? Next year? If you're honest, you can't really answer comfortably from the second question onward. That presses home the double whammy that earthly life is brief and uncertain. That's what PSALM 90 wants to remind us of.

This isn't just the oldest of all the Psalms, but possibly the oldest part of the entire Bible! Yet nowhere is the timeliness of God's Word clearer than in the strange way Psalm 90 becomes so relevant in our time. Can anything make you more aware of how brief and uncertain life is, than a worldwide pandemic that could infect you anytime? Pandemic or none, mankind has always struggled with three questions that this Psalm helps us answer:

Why are we supposed to trust and belong to God?

THE GREATNESS OF GOD: THE ETERNAL RELIABILITY OF GOD (vv. 1-6)

- Everything good and perfect in the universe was planned and created by an eternal, all-powerful and majestic God. God is so great, He exists outside of time (V. 4).
- No one knows better how frail and brief our lifetime is, than the God who created and sustains it.

The stark contrast of these two truths should compel us to make sure we have cast all our hope in God and have turned to Him through the only way He has mandated—Jesus Christ.

If God exists why is our world so messed up?

**THE DISGRACE OF MAN:
THE BACKGROUND OF MANKIND'S
MISERY (vv. 7-11)**

- The anger and wrath of God mentioned is not whimsical, spontaneous anger. It is instead the stated consequence of the fall of mankind. We became unclean before a holy God by more than

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one way—we sinned in and through Adam, and we have been sinning from the day of our birth. There is no one righteous in God's sight, not one.

- The entry of sin and death brought a curse on mankind and nature, and many of the things that God is being unfairly accused of are merely consequences of it: inner guilt, crime, illness, calamities, pandemics, etc.

Why should I never lose hope if I belong to God through Christ?

THE GRACE OF GOD: THE BASIS OF A BELIEVER'S HOPE (vv. 12-17)

- “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom”. Our lives are exercises in disintegration—we are wearing down and wearing out until we are dust again. Realizing its brevity and uncertainty should move us to seek wisdom over wealth, God over glory, love over lust, heaven over hell.
- “Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us”: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17 outdoes the modest request of v. 15 for present joys to equal past sorrows, by its promise of “an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”.

Those who believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, “shall live, even though they die” (JOHN 11:25). Therefore

- Let nothing trouble you: get satisfaction in His love every morning (V. 14).
- Let nothing dazzle you: see God's splendor as the only enduring kind (V. 16).
- Let nothing move you: God will establish the work of your hands (V. 17).

FINAL THOUGHTS

A misdirected life is a wasted life. How important it is that every believer should maintain an eternal perspective. We are allotted by God only so much time. Therefore, we must live strategically in light of eternity.

The constant change and uncertainty we experience in this life should drive us to live for the unchanging God, because only what's done for Him will last. Pandemic or none, life is brief and uncertain. But it's not how long you live, but how well. So, make it worth it—live well for God! ■

FAMILY/GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we think in a beneficial way about how brief and uncertain life is, without becoming anxious or depressed?
2. Should we use the uncertainty of life and reality of hell in witnessing? How?
3. Pray together, asking God to help you not just count your days, but to make your days count—whether God gives you a long life or not.

The Church Online

GCF ONLINE MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (GCF Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

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Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship