

I remember the first day I dropped off my oldest son Calvin at preschool.
I suddenly realized how quickly five years goes by.
We entered a new stage of life and I couldn't go back.
I wondered if I had made the most of all those days.
We never know how much time we have left.
We have all had those moments when where we realize how short life is
and we wonder if we've made it.
When your children leave the home for the last time.
Days when you graduate and what felt like forever is over.
The days when you finalize a divorce you never imagined.
Or the days when we stand at a grave of a loved one.
Our lives are a vapor and they go very very quickly.
This morning I want us to talk about those days.
And how we can make the days we have now count.
So, that when we find ourselves in those moments we are not filled with
regret.
We will always want to do some things differently.
But how can we live to make the most of the time we have.
Psalms 90 is gonna teach us about how we can make our lives count

I. We can't count God's days (v. 1-2).

And we actually are going to spend our time talking about God.
It might seem paradoxical because we wanna think about how we can
make our own lives count,
But we will never understand what makes our lives count.
Nor the quickness of our lives until we understand the eternity of God.
We need to think about His nature.
He is without beginning and without end.
His days always count and they go on forever.
We cannot begin to count the days of His life.
And we need to have His perspective.

Verse 1, **"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."**

Think about all the generations.

Because the generations just up to Moses day had been in many places.

But no matter where they had been, God has been their dwelling.

The physical location, their nation or their address does not determine their home.

Their ultimate dwelling place is found in God.

Whether it was Abraham who was called out of Ur, but dwelt with God.

Jacob who ran away from home in the wilderness, but dwelt with God.

Joseph was sold into slavery, but he dwelt with God.

All of Israel was kept as slaves, but dwelt with God.

They wandered in the wilderness, but dwelt with God.

They may have lived in the promised land, but they dwelt with God.

They were sent away into exile, but they dwelt with God.

Even after Christ, the people of God were no longer found just in the nation of Israel, but the church spread all over the world.

And wherever the Spirit of the Lord was, the people dwelt with God.

God is our dwelling place.

Our home is not in our nation.

It is not in our home town.

It is not ultimately in the places that we feel most at home.

The place where we dwell.

The place where we can take off our shoes and feel safe and at peace is with God.

And He is the dwelling place of all the people throughout every generation.

Things change in every generation.

Things that don't make sense to the older ones.

I find myself scratching my head at what the younger generation does and thinks.

Plenty of things in the world change.

But God along is our dwelling place.
That has never changed.
And that has never changed because our God does not change.
And no matter our days, He is where we need to be.
He is where we must dwell.

Verse 2, **"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."**

This gives us the image.
And it reminds us of how God is eternal.
He was God before the mountains were ever raised.
He was God before the earth began to be formed together in His hands.
Before the oceans burst forth and before rain fell from the sky.
Before oxygen was created and the first creature breathed.
Before the first bird took flight and the first animal burst from an egg.
God already was.

He has been from everlasting to everlasting.
This means that He is eternal.
He never ends.
He does not get old or age.
His body does not start to break down or go slower than He once did.
He does not lose His touch or fall out of His prime.
His mind does not go and His memory does not fade.
He is everlasting.
When we have long been gone.
Thousands of years from now, God will still be as incredible as He ever has been.

I remember spending time trying to sit down and just wrap my brain around the infinity and eternality of God and it just would freak me out or hurt my brain.
But that isn't what Moses is trying to do.

He is not just trying to remind us of how much greater God is than us.
This is an encouragement.
It is meant to be a comfort.

Our God will not change.
Maybe you can think of a friendship you had when you were young.
Someone you were with every day.
You told each other everything.
They were there when you would play outside for hours.
They were there for you for your first love and first heartbreak.
They were such a good friend you could never imagine life without them.
But something happened as you got older.
Maybe you moved away.
Or you both just changed.
And that friendship is not the same anymore.
It was not everlasting.
But God is.
He will never fade away or grow distant from you.
He is everlasting.

And it is His infiniteness that can ground us.
It is what can give us perspective.
And ultimately, He is our only hope to have our days count.
Because He reveals the truth of our situation.

II. We can count our days (v. 3-12).

God is eternal and without end.
We cannot count His days.
You cannot answer the question "How old is God?"
Because He is eternal.
But we can count our days.
They can be numbered and counted down to the very second.
On our tomb stones we list them out.
From the day of our birth to the day of our death.

And every tombstone has a different number on it.
But all of our days can be counted.

Verse 3, **"You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!'"**

We need to remember that our days are not infinite.
They are numbered.

And nothing reminds us more of this than our origin and our end.
God fashioned mankind and Adam out of the dust.
He gathered the dirt and breathed into it.

But one day, we all return to the dust.
This is part of how God designed our bodies to decay with the coming of death.
Our bodies do not stay forever.
They grow, we reach our peak, and then they begin to decline.
Even while we inhabit them.
But then one day after we die, they begin to turn back into dust.
It is grim, and not something we like to remember.
But the decay of our bodies is a physical reminder that our days are numbered.

Verse 4, **"For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past or as a watch in the night."**

And think about how our days compare to God.
A thousand years is nothing to God.
It feels just like yesterday.
Or it goes as quick as a night's sleep.
He uses the illustration of someone who stays up all night to keep watch over the town or over the sheep.
It might be awhile, but the morning comes and it is done.
To God a thousand years is nothing.
But to us our days feel much longer.
Our lives go quickly.
But we feel the passing of each year in the ache in our bones.

Verse 5, **"You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:"**

This is again thinking about time in our lives from the perspective of God. His days go on forever.

Our days feel so significant and so long and they are our whole life
But they are like a dream that we must wake from.
A thousand years can be swept away like a flood.

I sure most of us have seen the news of the flooding in Texas and had our hearts broken at the tragedy of the loss of life.

It's unbelievably heartbreaking to think of young girls whose days were unbelievably short while so many of them may have been having the time of their life at a camp.

That is the tragedy of our days.

None of those girls thought and none of those parents thought that their days were almost over but they were.

We don't get to countdown our days and know how quickly how long we will have but you can count on it coming eventually.

And you can probably count on it coming when you do not expect it or do not want it.

We must remember

We must understand that our days are very finite and very fragile.

Verse 6, **"in the morning it flourishes and is renewed in the evening it fades and withers."**

This is like a summary of humanity.

We flourish and live, then die and fade.

And new generations come and go while we are forgotten.

Just like the dew that comes in the morning and fades.

Compared to God, we are dew and vapor.

Dew that is here for a moment then it fades.

Verse 7, **"For we are brought to an end by your anger by your wrath we are dismayed."**

I don't think this is Moses saying that everyone individually dies because God just gets mad at us calls our number.

This seems to be more of the reality that all of humanity is under the curse of sin.

We are living with the consequences of the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

Death and the brevity of life is a result of our sin.

It is part of God's judgment and his anger and wrath and discipline upon humanity.

This is why we will die.

This is why our lives are brought to an end.

Because we live in a broken and lost world.

A world with sickness, disease, and death.

Verse 8, **"You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence."**

And none of us really have a right to complain about it.

None of us can tell God that he is being unfair or that we deserve better.

Because if we dare to tell God that we deserve better.

Then He can bring us into the courtroom.

And God will bring in all of the evidence to see if any of us really deserve eternal life without end.

And he can bring all of our sin and all of our secrets into the light.

And all of those will come to light.

It is not that God brings our sins out and prints them in the newspaper.

It is not like He is blogging about them.

Or that he tells everyone in order to gossip.

Our secret sins are simply revealed by the light of his presence.

It is the light that reveals the dark.

It is like shining a light in a dark room.

The brightness of His holiness just reveals our faults.
His beauty makes everything else pale in comparison.
What we once thought was white and pure is not.

Verse 9, **"For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh."**

The reality is that when we die, we go to face God's judgment.
Every single human being who has ever lived, when they die will stand before God and all secret things will be brought into the light.
And deep down, our consciences knows this.
Because we know our Maker no matter how much we deny it.
And we know that when we die we will have to stand before him.
And this is at least part of our fear of death.

Verse 10, **"The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away."**

Moses actually just tries to count the years.
He acknowledges that most of us the most we can hope for us 70.
Or if you're especially strong you get to 80.
A lot of those years, especially the later ones, will be filled with suffering.

And we all know this.
The older we get, the harder the years are.
And they go faster than we think.

And this is a basic fact that we need to be aware of and to remember.
Maxine made it to 100.
Odds are no one else in this room is going to.
Even if you would.
We can do the math and see how many years we have left.

Verse 11, **"Who considered the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?"**

Why do we need to think of God's anger and wrath?

Because when you die, you will stand before him.

And if you have not put your faith in your trust in Jesus Christ and him alone as your savior.

If you choose that you wanna go before the judgment seat of God and you wanna see if you've done more good stuff than bad stuff, you do not fear God.

And you do not understand how bad your bad stuff really is and how bad your good stuff that you think is great actually is.

The call of Moses is to understand.

And the reason that we would count our days and think about it is to recognize that one day you will face Jesus.

And you need to understand what's gonna happen if you try to face Jesus and you do so without faith and trust in him.

Because we serve a merciful God, and He wants to show us mercy.

But that mercy will only come to those who trust in Jesus.

Everyone else is going to face the full wrath and the full justice of God that he has withheld from you every day of your life.

There are times that my children are quiet and I know they are doing something they're not supposed to do.

Or I can hear them and I know that they are disobeying and they know that they are disobeying

And maybe they do need to be in trouble, but I'm showing them Grace and I'm not going right now to deal with it.

In many ways, that is what Jesus and God do.

He does not bring down the hammer the moment that we sin

He waits and he waits and he waits, hoping we will come to repentance.

But one day, His patience will be at an end and we will have to face God for what we have done.

We really don't like hell.

We don't like thinking about eternal punishment and torment.

But we do need to understand that is what awaits those who refuse to trust in Jesus .

And we need to live now as if that is coming and if that is true.

We need to act today as if one day I will stand before God and he will ask me about what I did today and what I said, and how I thought today.

Because one day ever will be filled with fear of God's wrath it's better to live today while you have a chance to wait.

"So, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

When you are a child you feel like you will live forever.

I can remember as a teenager doing unbelievably dangerous and foolish things because the idea that you could die didn't make any sense.

And you don't feel the need to count your days or number them.

Because you were going to live forever.

Old is something that happens to other people over there.

And as we get older we realize that that is kind of foolish.

But we still believe that we will have more time than we do.

We still can act as if our days don't matter or as if we will have more than we think.

Number of days and we need to think about them.

Really what this means is to understand that you will go before Jesus one day

We need to live today as if that matters.

We need to live and act today as if everything we do will echo into eternity

III. God can make our days count forever (v. 12-17).

Verse 12, **"So, teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."**

Again this is one of the things that God would help us to do this.

The burden is not on us to figure out how to number our days or to make the most of them are to do everything to the best of our ability

Instead, we ask, we see God that the eternal unending God would help us to understand how our days.

And that he would help us so that we could live in a way that makes the best of them

Because we knew that true wisdom ultimately is a gift from God.

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived.

And he was wise because God gave it to him.

And God gives it to anyone who asks.

So let's ask, so we can receive.

One of the mistakes that we can make when it comes to this is that we can think We are the ones who can start to make our days count

We can that this is simply a matter of efficiency.

In the modern world we highly value productivity and efficiency.

We can start to think OK I only have so many years left and these are my most productive years so therefore this is what I should do.

There's been a rise now on influencers and self-help people pushing this idea.

They rightly recognize that we need to count our days, but then they wrongly think the way we can make them count is just through human effort.

Hey, you need to wake up every morning at 4 AM because you gotta make the most use of your time.

And why you eat a fancy meal when you can just put everything in a blender and that'll save you years off of your life.

There is something to be said about being wise with our time and doing
But all of the product world is useless if it comes through human effort
alone.

We cannot make our days count.

This is why we need God.

He is the one who can do it.

Verse 13, **"Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on us your servants!"**i

We are pleading and asking him for mercy.

When you realize how short our lives are.

It shouldn't make you ready to use a lot more effort.

It should make us throw ourselves at God for mercy.

It should make you want to plead with God that he would see us.

That he would be kind to us.

Verse 14, **"satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days,"**

We ask for God to satisfy us.

Jesus would you satisfy us with the love of God.

Would it be what fills our hearts.

Even though our days are short, and we do not know how many years that
we have, would we be able to fill them with joy and with singing and with
love because of you?

A life spent contemplating and resting in the love of God is worth far more
than a life spent accomplishing things.

Verse 15, **"Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil."**

We ask that however many days we have that we could spend them with
Jesus.

That, however, painful the days I had get that we would spend them with
Jesus.

That no matter how difficult and how filled with suffering or final years are
that we would get to spend them with Jesus.

And we ask that Jesus would help us to be grateful for them.
That Jesus would help us to not take them for granted.
That Jesus would help us to recognize that even the days of our suffering
are a gift from him.
Because there are many, who would give anything to go back and have a
few more days on this side of eternity.
Because they don't get another chance.

Verse 16, **"Let your work be shown to your servants and your glorious
power to their children."**

We can pray and ask that God would show off for us.
That His power would be upon His servants.
And our families.
That God would do a mighty work.
That He would make our lives count.

Verse 17, **"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish
the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands."**

This is a pray that GOd would be favorable.
And that their work would be established.
This is a prayer, that their days would count.
That their work would matter.
That what they do would echo.
That God Himself would be over it and make it matter.

Remember, this is the prayer of slave people.
A nation of slaves.
Those who had to work to the point of death to make bricks for the
Egpytian empire.
So they could establish those people's greatness.
They could build monuments to idols and Pharoahs.
They would establish things that lasted for thousands of years.

And now Moses prays.

That they would not do the work of slaves.
But that their own would work last.
That the things they build would matter.
And that God could make their days count for something.

Jesus is the only one who can make our lives count.
We need to number our days and count them.
Sometimes we can act like this is something we need to do.
That if we could just get a calendar and print it on our house and just count the days so we notice how many days possibly we have left.
Which wouldn't be the worst thing to do it would be wise.
It'd be wise to live every day as if it was our last.
It would be wise to recognize that we only have so many years.
There's a limit and we are probably getting close to it.

I don't wanna dismiss the wisdom of that, but I do want you to see that this isn't here to add another burden on you or to give you another thing that you have to do.
So you can feel like you haven't done enough or wasted your life.
Instead of what I hope and when I want you see that Jesus can make your life count for all eternity.
He can do an amazing work that doesn't depend on you.

That's true we don't know our end and tomorrow is not promised.
But eternity is
Eternity has been promised
God does not promise that you will wake up tomorrow, but that does promise that if you put your faith in Jesus, you will always get to wake up and see him.

The hope of the gospel with Jesus does.
It is that this life is not the end.

Those who put their faith and hope in Jesus will live forever with him in peace and love and joy and the new heavens and the new creation that God is making.

There we will work and we will play and we will make art, and we will do things that matter, and that last into eternity with our lives that then will not end.

Jesus offers eternal life.

Not a life that goes on forever, but it's eventually misery, or boredom and we wish we could find something else to do.

But He offers us life abundantly.

He offers to establish our lives in our work.

You see the gospel Hope is not that we become true Christians and then we try to do amazing things here on earth.

What makes your life count is not how many businesses you have founded or how much money you have made.

What makes our life count is not how many children or grandchildren that you have had.

It is not a successful marriage or many friendships.

What makes our life count is not a legacy of accomplishments and productivity your awards or great art or legacy.

The gospel reminds us that all those things are not worth anything
That the only thing that can make our lives count is Jesus Christ.

And if we put our faith and trust in him, and if we are following Jesus, then that means that whatever our life is here, we live it and obedience to Jesus and trying to follow Jesus it will count.

All the other stuff will be burned and fade in a fire only what is pure will remain.

Every moment we have spent in prayer will be established.

Every conversation we've had with someone about Jesus will be established.

All of our quiet moments of faithfulness in our big moments of faithfulness last and count.

This life is for a dress rehearsal for eternity.

And we can miss it.

The only way for your life, not to count is not to give it to Jesus to put your faith in your hope in your trust in him and trust other things instead.

And if you are a Christian, if you're trusting in Jesus, your life will count.

It will count whether it ends today or whether it in this many years from now.

We should do our best apologies and let's be wise and let's put our best efforts towards our days and making the best use of our time.

Let's do an acknowledging that only Jesus can make all of our effort and all of our work matter

CONCLUSION:

1. We can't count God's days.
2. We can count our days.
3. God can make our days count forever.

Tim Keller is the pastor of a large church in New York City, a theologian, and best selling author who wrote a bunch of books and he died at 72 after three year long battle with pancreatic cancer. And one of his last words to his family as he was dying , while there is no downside to me, leaving. not one.

It's a man who understood the gospel in the hope of Jesus.

That ultimately, if we have put our faith in our hope in Jesus what makes our days count it's not what happens on this side of eternity, but what will happen on the next side.

When our days in this mortal flesh and and we step into eternity with Jesus And those days will count for more than anything we have ever done here.

So count your days here make them count, knowing that the days to come or what matter.