

*“So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12*

My 3rd oldest daughter Emma graduated last week and on Sunday I have the privilege of leading Berean’s annual baby dedication. Naturally, I’m reflecting on just how fast 18 years goes by. When Andrea and I first had children, I remember older parents reciting the familiar cliché *“It goes by fast”*. This is said about raising children because it’s true. Parenting goes by fast. Life goes by fast. It’s wise and honoring to God to make the most of it.

Psalm 90:10 says, *“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty”*. While I understand there are obvious outliers, and despite all man’s attempts at elongating it, the human life span hasn’t changed since the time of Moses (to whom this Psalm of lament is attributed). This finite life span is a direct result of our first parents’ fall. And, apart from Christ, those 70 or 80 years of life are sadly spent under God’s wrath and powerful anger because of sin (Psalm 90:7,9).

God, on the other hand, has no beginning or end. He is from *“everlasting to everlasting”* (Psalm 90:2). To Him *“a thousand years”* are *“but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night”* (Psalm 90:4). He is also the *“refuge”* and *“dwelling place”* of His people in *“all generations”* (Psalm 90:1). By dying in your place, Christ took the wrath of God you deserved. Your Savior is the propitiation for your sins. That is, His death appeased God’s wrath toward You once and for all. Because of Him, you are able to experience the steadfast love and favor of God (Psalm 90:14, 17).

In light of these things, Moses prays to the LORD on behalf of the people of Israel saying: *“teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”* (Psalm 90:12). Although you have been given eternal life, the effects of the fall still remain, so your conversion does nothing to change the 70 or 80 years you will likely have on this earth (Barring our Savior’s return - Maranatha!). But, if you will acknowledge this fact it will lead to a heart of wisdom. It will increase your *“skill in the art of godly living”* that begins with the fear of the LORD (Psalm 90:11) and is empowered by the Holy Spirit who now lives inside of you. (1) Knowing life is short should lead you to make the *most of your days* as you seek to bring glory to God, who is your refuge, in all you do. (2)

Pastor Rich

Questions For Reflection

- *How might focusing on the brevity of your life change your approach to a decision or a problem you are currently facing?*
 - *How would you rate yourself 1-10 in regard to making the best use of your time?*
 - *Did Christ number His days?*
1. *ESV: Study Bible: English standard version (p. 1135).* Wheaton, Ill, Crossway Bibles. 2008..
 2. *ESV: Study Bible: English standard version (p. 1053).* Wheaton, Ill, Crossway Bibles. 2008..