***Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.***

Psalm 90:12 – there are some who make this shallow, even a trite scripture. Some take this deep and rich Psalm, with so much meaning and power – so much wisdom and instruction – and suggest it means – life is short. It’s sort of like looking at the Grand Canyon, with the rock layers, varying colors, the way the sun plays to create light and shadow and saying, “That’s a lot of rocks.” We must never cheapen God’s Word, lessen the depth of His communication. God’s Word is endlessly deep, living and changing. Teach us to number our days. Our time is limited. How we spend it is important.

Psalm 90 starts out recognizing Who God is – Verse 2 *Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.* Long before I was born and even after I die, You are God. Before anything existed, You existed. Everlasting to everlasting, Alpha to Omega, Beginning to Ending. Each of us owes it to ourselves to sit and ponder the Infinity of God, the Eternal nature of God – John 8:58 says - *Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”* The God we serve, the God that knows us by name, has been since the beginning and will be to the end. Teach us to number our days El Olam – Everlasting God! Genesis 21:33. We must first get our arms around the Timelessness of God before we can begin to grasp our time bound lives. We cannot number what we do not believe has beginning and end.

Verse 4 says *For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.* 2 Peter 3:8 says - *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* God created time and defined space – He is not constrained by what He created – Time creates no demand on Him, Space is not His dwelling place. Infinity rests in the palm of His hand. This is our God.

Verses 5-6 *In the morning they are like grass which grows up: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.* They… is us. We are like grass. 70 years, perhaps by strength more. 1000 years is like a day. Time is God’s creation, not His master. What is 70 years against a backdrop of infinity? God is infinite and we’re not, our time is a vapor, a glimmer, a mist – stretching before us now, passing by us in a rush, behind us in a blink. Teach us to number our days.

Verse 12 starts *So teach us to number our days.* Unless we first understand the fleeting nature of our days, we will not learn to value each moment, waste no time, focus on what is eternally important. Teach us to number our days – value our blessings – be diligent about the work that has eternal impact. Teach us to ask not, “What time is it?” but “What is my time now for?” Make me mindful of my relationship with You God. Teach me to know that I am not guaranteed one more hour, not promised one more minute, not certain that my leaving home will be followed by a return. Teach me to number my days! Is soccer more urgent than Spirit? Is play more important than prayer? Is recreation more valuable than relationship? Teach me to use my blink of time, my wisp of smoke, my wink in history for eternal impact. Teach me to number my days.

Verse 12 ends - *That we may gain a heart of wisdom.* How do we gain a heart of wisdom? By first grasping God’s Eternal nature and learning where we fit against eternity. That we may GAIN – the KJV says, that we may apply our hearts. The word gain has the idea of attaining something of great value. Psalm 111:10 begins *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.* Same Hebrew word for wisdom. Solomon asked for an understanding heart - A heart of wisdom – a listening heart, humble and realizing a dependence on God, a heart focused on obedience and service to God, serving others with our limited days.

Life is short, but eternity is long. What we do here follows us there. God won’t ask if Suzy made first team on the Sunday soccer league. He won’t admire the Harley that consumed every Sunday. He won’t talk about degrees or study. He will simply ask – how did you steward the gifts I gave you? 1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* When we gain a heart of wisdom, we realize the fleeting nature of our lives. Using each day wisely becomes urgent. Psalm 90:16 & 17 ends *Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. 17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.*

This week, take inventory. Are the days mindfully numbered, carefully cataloged, impactfully spent on things of eternal significance? Is wisdom gaining purchase, even as the noise of this world shrieks for attention? Is there gold and silver waiting to be tested in heaven? Or stubble and straw? It’s never too late… God, teach us to wisely number our days.