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

This morning, we come to the first Sunday of the New Year. It’s a blessing to see yet another year, filled with the Love of God. So, what’s in a year? 12 months… 52 weeks… 365 days… 8,760 hours… 525,600 minutes… 31,536,000 seconds. Here at the beginning of 2025, we think there’s plenty of time. Just like every year, we think that it will not pass so quickly as the last and yet, would it shock anyone to know that about 41,000 seconds have already passed in this year? What’s in a year? Grace. Mercy. Opportunities… Opportunities are in a year… Opportunities to serve, learn, and change… opportunities to witness, teach, and lead… over 31,000,000 opportunities… what will we do with what’s in a year?

Psalm 90 is attributed to Moses, as he and the children of Israel wander in the desert for 40 years. Most theologians agree that Moses is writing this psalm, as the people wander in the wilderness of Paran, having just suffered the loss of his sister Miriam, He has just struck the rock instead of speaking to it and been told he will not enter the Promised Land. His beloved brother Aaron will soon die. Here, Moses is considering this fragile life, the shortness of days, and the greatness of God. Into this, Moses speaks our focal verse this morning.

Verse 12 starts – *So –* a two-letter word that means so much. So – meaning to set up or properly set in place. Make us ready for what You are about to teach us. The question is never whether God is ready to teach, but whether we are ready to learn. Are we willing to receive the gift God is ready to give? Let’s establish our eagerness and hunger to learn what God has for us. Let’s seek that learning from regular Bible study, devotion, prayer, and communion with God. Let’s carve out part of our remaining 518,000 minutes and seize the opportunity to draw closer to the One who longs to teach us.

Verse 12 continues – *teach us to number our days.* Who does scripture tell us is our Teacher? The Holy Spirit – John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* The Holy Spirit of God brings knowledge of the value of our days. How would our walk with Jesus look if we numbered each day as 24 hours of opportunity? What if we woke each morning and thanked God first thing for all the opportunities we’ll receive in the 24 hours He’s given? The word for number means allot or allocate. Holy Spirit, teach us to allocate our days and use them wisely, not in a wasteful, self-focused manner, but in a way useful for the things of eternity. What a prayer!

Verse 12 ends - *That we may gain a heart of wisdom.* The King James translation says - *that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*. So… meaning to properly set us in place and establish us to allocate and number God’s gift. The time God has given us for what reason? To gain a heart of wisdom. Proverbs 2:6-7 tells us - *For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly.* So, we know the Teacher, we know the Source, and James 1:5 tells us how to pursue Wisdom - *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* But, the knowledge of God does not come by accident. The seizing of the opportunities of God does not come by chance. We must apply our days, the gift that God gives. We must allocate thoughtfully and pursue every day the things of the Kingdom.

I recently read a study where scientists tracked the calories consumed by a group of people. The people were housed for one week and cameras caught everything they ate. The people were asked to list the food they ate. At the end of the study, video footage was compared to what was listed. It was determined that the people ate almost twice as many calories as they wrote down. Were they all lying? No. They were not thoughtfully listing. Likewise, we often believe we apply much more time to God in prayer, devotion, study, service, and witness than we actually do. Unlike the number of potential calories in a day, the opportunity of hours to do the things of God is limited to 24. How are we numbering days?

This week, let’s set an intention to recognize the opportunities God has given. 360 days from now, the year will turn again. Will our hearts have gained wisdom? Will we be allocating our gifts toward the things of eternity or will we still be investing in a wasteful world? What’s in a year? Opportunity. What is the greatest opportunity of all? Using this year, this minute, this second to grow closer to our God, by way of His Son, Jesus Christ.