

The Life and Time of the Believer

Introduction

- A. Life or time are a very unusual commodity or relationship. There are certain occasions when life or time are very valuable. At other times life itself appears to hang heavy upon us.
- B. The Christian understands the importance of life and time. We know that we have been created by God for a purpose. He has a plan for each of us to fulfill. It is a most serious sin to live as though our life was without purpose. God called the rich farmer a "fool" when he stood in His presence because he had been taken up with only the gaining of possessions. (Luke 12)

I. The Biblical Description of the Brevity of Life.

- A. Life is Likened to a Runner, a Ship, and an Eagle, Job 9:25,26.

Now my days are swifter than a post (runner), they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships, as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.

Observation: In his trial Job saw his life quickly passing away without plan, purpose, enjoyment or the solution to his need. Too often we are like Job and wonder at the meaning of our life. It is a comfort to know that God has a purpose for our daily life even as He had for Job.

- B. Life is Likened to a Sleep, to Grass, and to a Tale, Psalm 90:5,9.

Thou carriest them away as with a flood, they are as a sleep, in the morning they are like grass which groweth up . . . For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath, we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Observation: Here the Psalmist is contrasting the eternity of God with the brevity of our life and time. He prays that God would enable him to live a life that would glorify God and be satisfying. This is a good example to all of us.

- C. Life is likened to Grass and Flowers, Psalm 103:14-16.

For He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone . . .

Observation: In this passage the Psalm writer is describing the care of God for His own and the mercy of God that is everlasting. As we recognize the brevity of life and the daily need that we have for mercy and divine care we can join with the Psalmist in thanksgiving. God has not saved us to desert us.

- D. Life is likened to a Vapour, James 4:14.

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away.

Observation: This section of James is written to rebuke those who were living as though they would live here forever. The counsel given was to have the attitude found in the words, "if the Lord will, we shall live and do this, or that". This is wise counsel. We must pay attention to the will of God.

II. The Biblical Promises Regarding life.

A. God is Ever Present as our Object of Trust, Psalm 31:13-15.

. . . Fear was on every side . . . But I trusted in Thee, O Lord, I said,
Thou art my God. My times are in Thy hand, deliver me from the hand of mine
enemies, and from them that persecute me.

Observation: Here the Psalmist had a very practical need - deliverance from
fear and his enemies. The promise of God to the believer is that
our "times" are in His hand. He wants us to trust Him.

B. God is Ever Present as our Refuge, Psalm 46:1,2.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore
will not we fear, though the earth be removed and though the mountains be
carried into the midst of the sea.

Observation: It is a comfort to know that God is always a "present help" for
the believer. In all the changes of life - His presence is
constant. The believer is never absent from Gcd.

C. God is Ever Present as our Helper, Hebrews 13:5,6.

Let your conversation (daily life) be without covetousness and be content
with such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor
forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, and I will
not fear what man shall do unto me.

Observation: These verses indicate some of the practical effects of God's
continual presence. We are told we need not covet, God is our
Helper and we need not fear what people can do to us. These
verses emphasize the truth that God created us to fulfill His
plan and that He is with us to enable us.

III. The Biblical Exhortations Regarding Life.

A. We are to Consider our Life and Thereby Live Wisely, Psalm 90:12.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Observation: Here we are exhorted to consider life with its brevity and
opportunity so that we may live our lives wisely. One of the
greatest tragedies is that of a wasted life.

B. We are to Redeem the Time of our Life, Ephesians 5:15,16.

See then that ye walk (live) circumspectly, not as fools, but. as wise.
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Observation: We must make the most of the time which has been given to us.
Our life and its time is a potentiality which must be Biblically
developed and utilized. Only a fool has time to waste.

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