

Psalm 90:1-12 ESV

Let Us Enter 2016 with a Heart of Wisdom!



Thursday, December 31 at 7 PM

Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus – 2015

Our Regular Schedule Resumes on Sunday, 1/3 and Monday, 1/4
Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 10:45; Mondays at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus Christ: On this New Year's Eve 2015, *as we get ready to step into 2016*, we focus on **Psalm 90**, which is a prayer of Moses. Think about the life of Moses:

- ➔ 40 years living in the house of Pharaoh; then, *after Moses killed an Egyptian*, he had to flee!
- ➔ 40 years of becoming a husband and father in Midian; then the LORD used Moses to deliver His people!
- ➔ 40 years of leading God's people in the wilderness, just before they entered the Promised Land!

Since Moses went through so much in his life – ✦earthly blessings, ✦earthly trials, and ✦face-to-face conversations with the LORD (**Ex. 33:11**), let us – *by God's grace* – **rightly understand** and **diligently apply Psalm 90** to our lives!

1. **God Is So Eternal:** ¹ **Lord, you have been our dwelling place** [*our habitation, our place of refuge*] **in all generations.** ² **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth** [*day 1 of creation*] **and the world** [*days 2-6 of creation*], **from everlasting to**

everlasting you are God. // So how eternal is God?

Think back to *the time of creation*; then *prior to creation*; God has always existed! Now, think forward to *the end of time*; then *beyond the end of time*; **God will always exist, God will always be God!**

2. **People Are So Temporal:** ³ **You return man to dust** [*from which he was formed (Gen. 2:7)*] **and say, “Return, O children of man** [*our bodies came from the ground and will return to the ground!*”] ⁴ **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch** [*a three-hour period of time*] **in the night** [*yet, when we are sleeping, it passes without notice*]. ⁵ **You sweep them** [*the children of man*] **away as with a flood** [*very thoroughly*]; **they are like a dream** [*so very temporary*], **like grass that is renewed in the morning:** ⁶ **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.** // Make the comparison: **We are like a one-day flower**, which sprouts in the morning, blooms at midday, fades in the evening, and dies in the night. **But God is from everlasting to everlasting!**

3. **God Is Fully Aware of Our Sins:** ⁷ **For we are brought to an end by your anger** [*we are helpless to resist You*]; **by your wrath we are dismayed** [*afraid, discouraged*]. ⁸ **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins** [*sins that even we are not aware of*] **in the light of your presence.** // Since God is omniscient, He knows about all sins – *even secret sins, even sins which are unknown to the sinners who committed them*. **However, there is also good news:** Dr. Kretzmann wrote: **“If we see our sins in the proper spirit of repentance, then God does**

not see them, for they are then covered by the garment of Christ's righteousness" (OT II:155).

4. **The Wages of Sin Is Death:** ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh *[with moaning]*. ¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty *[for those who are diligent and have God's blessing in staying physically healthy]*; yet their span is but toil and trouble *[since we live in a sin-filled world]*; they are soon gone, and we fly away. // God made a perfect world, but the people, when tempted by Satan, brought ✦sin, ✦suffering, and ✦death into this world. In this life we cannot escape from those sad realities, so Dr. Kretzmann wrote: "How foolish, then, for men to regard this life as the most desirable thing and to neglect the care for eternity" (Ibid)! However, there is more good news: **God has come to our rescue in the Person of Jesus!** He has won the victory over ✦sin, ✦suffering, and ✦death! *So all who receive Jesus as their Savior have been delivered!* Yes, they still live in this valley of sorrow, but ✓their eternal punishment has been suffered by Jesus, ✓their sins are forgiven, ✓they are alive in Christ, and ✓they have God's promise of a most blessed eternity!

5. **All Things Considered, We Need a Heart of Wisdom:** Think about the Psalm (the prayer) so far: Moses has spoken about **God's eternal existence** in comparison to **our very temporal existence**. He also made a connection between **our sins** and **God's wrath**. With those realities in mind, let's consider ✦the last two verses of our text and ✦how we can go forth into 2016

with a heart of wisdom: ¹¹ **Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of [that is due to] you?** [Dr. Kretzmann asked the question:

“Who fears the wrath of God in the proper measure?” (Ibid, 156)]

¹² **So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.** // God is ➔**eternal**—without beginning and without end, ➔**omnipotent**—all-powerful, ➔**omniscient**—all-knowing, and ➔**holy**—sinless and hating sin. So these are some things that would be included in a heart of wisdom:

- a. Being sorry for our sins, *which God hates.*
- b. Trusting in Jesus, *the only Savior.*
- c. Making the most of our time, *by learning and following God’s will for our lives.*

Conclusion: Finally, regarding a heart of wisdom, Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “...the essence of wisdom [is] to be prepared for death at all times” (Ibid). **May God help us to know that we are ever-ready through Jesus!**

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

Disciple Training

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Important Teachings to Remember:

1. God is from everlasting to everlasting.
2. Due to sin, our lives on earth are short and fading away.

Important Actions to Practice:

1. Seek God’s wisdom in His Word – He knows best!
2. Fully follow whatever God says, even if it doesn’t make sense!

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