

Psalm 90:12-14

Dear Friends in Christ,

The 90th Psalm is a Psalm of Moses and has been referred to as “A Prayer of Moses.” It is possibly the oldest of the Psalms. Alexander Maclaren wrote, “The sad and stately music of this great psalm befits the dirge of a world... It preaches man’s mortality in immortal words.” (Quoted from “Exposition of the Psalms,” by H. C. Leupold, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, third printing 1974, p. 641.)

And you might ask, “What is “the dirge of a world?”; keeping in mind that a dirge is defined as “a song or hymn of grief that often accompanies a funeral.” (Webster) Maclaren’s reference to *the dirge of a world* fits with these words of Psalm 90 which precede our text:

You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”...You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream... You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence... we bring our years to an end like a sigh...The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; and they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? (Portions of 3-11)

This morning . . .

WE ARE CRYING OUT LOUD!

I. For a Heart of Wisdom.

In the twelfth verse of our text Moses prays, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Most don’t want to number their days; think about dying and death, think about the constant changes, think about the process of deterioration. The realities. The cry goes up, “Too negative! I have my plans and living to do!”

From Genesis through Revelation the Scriptures impress upon us who we are and what this world is. It can be summed up in one word: Mortal. Full of dying and death because of sin. Moses said it: “You sweep (man) away...they are like a dream...our iniquities (and) secret sins (are) in the light of your presence...(the span of our years) is but toil and trouble...we fly away.” If one doesn’t like to hear all that “negative”, if one finds it too stressful, then one should keep their Bible on the shelf and find a church where one is “properly” deluded!

For us, the pursuit is what Moses said: “...teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” And that wisdom is Jesus. And Jesus is forgiveness for our iniquities and sin. And faith in Jesus means we will not be *swept away as with a flood*. It is as Scriptures say, “...you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” (I Cor. 1:30) That is to say, through faith in Christ’s earning our forgiveness and heaven God sees us as righteous. Through faith in Christ He sanctifies us; sets us apart as His holy people. He has redeemed us; purchased us from sin, death and hell. He does not see us as a dream - a moment that will be gone and forgotten.

Every day of our lives, we cry out to God, “teach us to number our days that we get a heart of wisdom.” The most important issue on our agendas today, tomorrow and every day is our walk with Christ, Who is The Wisdom!

II. For Him to Return.

Our text goes on to say, "Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!" (v. 13) This has always been the cry of the church through the centuries because it has always been in conflict with the world and has undergone moments when it thought God was angry and had permanently abandoned it. "Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!" The cry is no different for the church today.

In the sixth chapter of the Book of Revelation is the account of the opening of six of the seven seals. The sixth chapter reveals what God does in and with the world and the church during the New Testament Era. I want you to hear that again: What God does in and with the world and the church during the New Testament Era. Where we are now. What He's doing.

After the fifth seal is opened, John writes, "I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain (during the New Testament Era; where we are now!) for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" (Rev. 6:9-10) We cry out: ***How long? Return, O Lord. Have pity on us!***

Listen, dear friends, there is no reason - no excuse - for a child of God to sit in a fog about what this world is and what's happening to it! No reason! None - unless the child of God has become obsessed with this world. What Jesus said was for the church for all generations and, who knows, maybe especially for this moment: "...you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away (and that will include some here) and betray one another and hate one another." (Matt. 24:9-10) Jesus said it: "For then there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be." (Matt. 24:21)

Pardon the worn cliches, but if a child of God is looking for a "pie in the sky", "happy go lucky life" in this world...well...all we can say is wake-up, get out of your spiritual sleep, open that Bible and make use of it! Learn from it!

Listen, dear friends, the Scriptures are clear about where we are and what's to come upon this world:

The coming of the lawless one (the anti-Christ) is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion (He will lock people in their twisted, Godless thinking and desires), so that they may believe what is false (they will believe the absurd and profane with no way out), in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thess. 3:9-12)

III. For His Steadfast Love.

And so, we cry out with Moses from the fourteenth verse of Psalm 90, "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

Do you remember those words of Zechariah concerning the work of his son, the man we know as John the Baptist? These words: "And you child...will go before the Lord to prepare his way (Christ's work), to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins...". (Lk. 1:76-77) It's the issue, the issue, the issue: **Salvation** in the **forgiveness of our sin**, our crimes against a Holy God!!

Do you remember these words of Peter? "To him (Jesus) all the prophets (the entire Old Testament) bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Act. 10:43) It's the issue: Eternal life to those who believe Christ has earned forgiveness of all sin for them!

Do you remember these words of Paul? “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man (Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes (not does good works but believes) is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.” Freed from trying to earn God’s love through good works which could never pay for our countless sin. (Acts 12:38-39) It’s the.....well, you know! It’s the “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8,9)

You and I have what this world, left to itself and ways and thinking, can never have: A back door on our graves that opens to everlasting love and life in the presence of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. And we have, now, the Presence and Love of God in Christ in the Scriptures and our Baptisms and our taking of the Lord’s Supper.

We cannot get caught in the downward spiral of this world’s thinking and wants. We cannot allow what this world is to overwhelm us. We can, however, rejoice, find true happiness and peace in God’s steadfast love through Christ’s promise, “And, behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:20b) And this promise which should daily guide each child of God:

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me (because He is God!). In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (Jn. 14:1-3) - and that’s forever!

Oh, friends, we are crying out loud the words of John: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20b)

Amen.

Pastor Bill Abbott

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Psalm 90:12-14:

“We Are Crying Out Loud!”

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II. For Him to Return.

III. For His Steadfast Love.

*Pilgrim Lutheran Church
2155 North Oakland Avenue
Decatur, Illinois 62526*