

Going Deeper Part I “God our Dwelling Place” Psalm 90

Introduction

Psalm 90 was written by Moses, it is the only Psalm that we are aware of that he wrote.

- The Psalm itself is important for our study, but its also significant because of the relationship Moses had with God.
- Moses was called “a friend of God”, (Exodus 33:11) “The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one who speaks to a friend”. (Also see Numbers 12:8)

In our world today because of business and many other things it’s so easy to “skim” in our knowledge and relationship with God, etc.

- We go “wide” with our reach and ministry, (which is good), but we can only give what we have received.
- I Corinthians 2:10 says: “...these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God”
- God is calling us to go deeper...join us in the Spirit led journey!

Main Text

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. 2) Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3) You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals." 4) A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. 5) Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: 6) In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. 7) We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. 8) You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. 9) All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. 10) Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. 11) If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. 12) Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. 13) Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. 14) Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. 15) Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. 16) May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. 17) May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands." **(Psalm 90: 1-17)**

1) The Foundation

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who **dug down deep** and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49*

*is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who **dug down deep** and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

(Luke 6:46-49)

Jesus makes a tough statement; "why do you call me Lord and do not do what I say"

- He then says I'll show you what's it like when someone hears and then puts my words into practice.
- This person is like one who is building a house and "*dug down deep*" and laid the foundation on rock.
- These are people who don't just live on the surface; there is depth to them and their lives. They are not superficial or shallow.
- Hebrews 12 says that things will be shaken, "*so that what cannot be shaken may remain*"
- We want to dig down deep and build our lives on the unshakeable rock, part of the unshakable Kingdom of God.

2) Life, Times and our Home

Psalm 90 is a sobering reminder and an encouragement to us about the brevity of life and the significance of life.

- Brief yes, but lived out in light of eternity.
- Moses lived out life in an intimate way with God. Face to face, as a friend.
- Moses starts this Psalm by acknowledging God has been their home, their dwelling place.

"Lord, through all generations you have been our home." **(Psalm 90:1 NLT)**

- While in Egypt and in the wilderness, we had no home, but our home was with you.
- A home is more than wood, cement, shingles, windows and doors; we're talking about something very significant, for something particular.
- More than a structure, but significant because of who you live in that home with and the sharing of life with those in that home.
 - This is confirmed when people lose their homes and the loss isn't brick and mortar, but something far more significant.
- Paul is speaking in Athens (Acts 17:28) and proclaims: "For in him we live and move and have our being".
- For Moses a home is not a *place* but a *person*, it will be the ultimate consummation that we will dwell with God and he with us.

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." **(Revelation 21:3)**

- For some they think about the streets of gold and other things, but what will make our dwelling is that we are with God and he will live with us.

3) The issue of Eternity

God is eternal; he never had a beginning, from eternity to eternity.

"Before the mountains were born you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." **(Psalm 90:2 NIV)**

“Before the mountains were born you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (Psalm 90:2 NIV)

Jesus came and dwelt with us, so we could find our home in God.

- The scriptures challenge us, (Col 3:16) “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly”
- Dig down deep and build your life in Christ, this is where significance is found.

Moses will contrast the Eternal God and that we have been made in his image.

- He always was before the creation of the world, you have always been.
- This is a secure dwelling place, not subject to the volatility of this world.
- Moses began to understand this at the burning bush. Confronting the most powerful man on the planet, requesting a name, “I am”.
- God has put in every human heart a concept of eternity, an awareness of something more beyond this life...

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

- It is a longing for something beyond this life...the next chapter that we can't even conceive of or fathom.
- Because we have been made in his image, death does not end this.

4) The Red Dot

Pastor Randy used the illustration of a line that is eternal both ways. On that line is a red dot that signifies our life.

- The dot is so small (in relation to the line) the challenge is to think of our present days in light of eternity.
- The red dot is not the end but the beginning, because we've been made in his image.

“The length of our days is seventy years — or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:10,12)

- We are not guaranteed tomorrow, but we are guaranteed eternity.
- Life is brief, so live wisely, what is guaranteed is that we will live eternally, somewhere.
- But some become so consumed with the 70 or 80 years that we have been given. We can't sacrifice the eternal for the very brief temporary.

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

(James 4:13-14)

Our lives outside of Christ are subject to the wrath and judgment of God. (1 Thess. 5:9)

“You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” 4 A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. 5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: 6 in the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. 7 We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. 8 You have set our iniquities before you,

sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: 6 in the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. 7 We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. 8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. 9 All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. 10 Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.” (:3-10)

- Our life is over quickly and it is futile to build a life or existence on our own without God. It’s not just about me; it’s a futile vapor.
- But when we build in light of eternity, part of God’s story with an eternal purpose, it takes on significance.

“If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.” (:11)

If you could see God for whom he is, see him in all of his awesomeness:

- We would want our years to be about him, if we could only catch a glimpse.

*“Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is **as great (awesome) as the fear that is due you (you deserve).**”*

- Hell will be filled with people who existed for their own glory.
- He deserves our focus his greatness demands our attention. When we see God in all his glory you will want your 70 or 80 years to be about him.
- Moses only caught a glimpse of God’s glory on the mountain and it lit his face and had to be covered.
- God’s call for us is to go deeper, to see his glory, his splendor. It would change everything about our lives and how we live out this short life.

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

“Teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (V12)

“In light of how glorious you are O God, teach us how to live day by day.”

It’s never too late to change your eternity until it is too late.

Life Group Sermon Application Curriculum Leader's Guide

Week of 01/04/15

"Going Deeper Part I" (God our Dwelling Place)

I recently spoke to a young pastor in Boston, MA. We were discussing Randy's sermon out of Psalm 90. He said; "My eyes were opened to eternal perspective through my wife." They had moved to Boston so that she could follow her dream of dancing with the Boston Ballet. This was a life-long dream, a life ambition, and after more than 20 years of work and sacrifice, she had accomplished her dream. Over that time she had trained with world-renowned dancers and choreographers. She had danced in Paris, NY, Los Angeles, but her dream was to dance for Boston Ballet. This had been put in her heart from the time she was a little girl and now she had achieved it. Yet on a snowy winter evening in Boston, she sat down with her husband and shared a realization, an opening of her eyes.

She told him that she became aware that it was possible that the whole purpose in her coming to Boston, the whole purpose of her life's ambition up to this point, may have been to bring him to Boston with her. He received his call to full time pastoral ministry once they came to Boston. He went to seminary started working on staff at their church, following the call on his life. God has used her to bless many around her through those years, but she has come to believe it is entirely possible that the purpose of her ambition for dance may have had very little to do about her. She had begun to see her existence, her ambition, and her purpose with *eternal perspective*.

"So what do I do with this realization?" he asks. "I don't equate this to increased importance on my call, I equate this to an *eternal perspective* of the work God gives each of us to do. I ask God to bless the work of my hands, not that the work I do will have success in this life; but that he will bless me, by giving my hands *his work to do* in my short time on this earth."

Main Sermon text: (Psalm 90)

There are some consistent themes, and key points, that emerge from these passages:

- Jesus said when someone hears and then puts his words into practice that this person is like one who is building a house and "*dug down deep*" and laid the foundation on rock. They are people who don't just live on the surface; there is depth to them and their lives, they are not superficial or shallow. They build our lives on the unshakeable rock, part of the unshakable Kingdom of God.
- Psalm 90 is sobering reminder to us about the brevity of our life and an encouragement about the significance of life lived out in light of eternity.
- Moses recognizes that throughout history God has been their home, their dwelling place. We realize that home is not a *place* but a *person*; that when all things come to completion we will dwell with God and he will dwell with us. (Rev 21:3)
 - God is eternal; he never had a beginning, from eternity to eternity. He made us in his image, so we will live eternally somewhere. The eternal one, the Great "I am" is a secure dwelling place, not subject to the volatility of this world. God has put in every human heart a concept of eternity, an awareness of something more beyond this life.
 - Our time and existence on earth is very brief, we have no guarantees. We need to live wisely; not becoming consumed with this short existence...we can't sacrifice the eternal for the very brief temporary.
 - Our lives outside of Christ are subject to the wrath and judgment of God. Our life is

the eternal for the very brief temporary.

- Our lives outside of Christ are subject to the wrath and judgment of God. Our life is over quickly and it is futile to build a life or existence on our own without God. If you could see God for whom he is, see him in all of his awesomeness; we would want our years to be about him, if we could only catch a glimpse.

Discussion questions/prompts for your group: (These questions are designed to help your group go deeper, understanding and applying the Bible passage(s) and the sermon)

- In Psalm 90:1 Moses says; “Lord, you have been our *dwelling place* throughout all generations”. What do you believe he meant by this at the time he wrote it, what it means to us now and what will it mean in the future when we are with the Lord for eternity?
Moses was thinking back to Israel’s time in Egypt and in the wilderness where they had no home. But Moses understood that God had his “Tabernacle” (Dwelling) with his people, he was their home. For us today we realize that a home is more than brick wood, doors and windows, a home is not a place but a person. And Revelation 21:3 tells us that God will make his dwelling place with us and we will live with him throughout eternity.
- In Luke 6:46-49, Jesus talks about the importance of digging deep down and building our house on the rock. What are the characteristics of a believer that has built there live on a solid foundation?
Stability, people who don’t just live on the surface, depth to them and their lives, not superficial or shallow. They are not shaken, (When life’s storms come) but as Hebrews 12: says “so that what cannot be shaken may remain” lives built on the unshakeable rock, part of the unshakable Kingdom of God.
- Take a few minutes to discuss the illustration Pastor Randy used of the line of eternity and contrasting that with the red dot that represents our lives.
God is eternal; he never had a beginning, from eternity to eternity, we were made in his image, we had a starting point, but we will live eternally somewhere. But our 70 to 80 years is so microscopic, almost undetectable compared to eternity.
- As you read Psalm 90, what were your thoughts as Moses spoke about the brevity of our lives? With this in mind our lives can seem futile, so what does it mean to have a life lived out in light of eternity?
It is easy for us to become so consumed with the red dot, the years that we have been given. We have to be wise with the very short time we have been given; we can’t sacrifice the eternal for the very brief temporary.
- Contemplations from our Psalm:
 - (V7-9) Our lives outside of Christ are subject to the wrath and judgment of God. (I Thess. 5:9) “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - (V3-10) Our life is over quickly and it is futile to build a life or existence on our own without God. It’s not just about me or you; it’s a futile vapor
 - (V11) If you could see God for whom he is, see him in all of his awesomeness; we would want our years to be about him, if we could only catch a glimpse.
 - (V12-17) A Prayer

For those who might like to use visual aids in their Bible storying, or study preparation, especially for groups with children, here are some helpful links:

For those who might like to use visual aids in their Bible storying, or study preparation, especially for groups with children, here are some helpful links:

<http://www.raisingourkids.com/coloring-pages/printable/bible/index-02.html>