

PRAYING THE PSALMS

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Friday, January 26

Reading: Psalm 39

Psalm 39:4 *"Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before You. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. 6 "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be. 7 "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You.*

When we were kids, we looked forward with excitement to our birthday. As we got older, birthdays were less important and eventually we wished we wouldn't have them at all. Growing old is something our culture tries to hide. We use dye to cover our gray hair and Botox to hide our wrinkles. In this psalm, David reminds us of some facts about the brevity of life and how to deal with them.

First, he tells us that LIFE IS FRAGILE (39:4-5). David describes life as "a breath," even for those who seem secure and healthy. It can all disappear in a moment. We are reminded of this every time we attend a funeral or end up in the hospital.

Next we see that TIME IS FLEETING (39:4-5). A "handbreadth" was a small measurement about the length of a person's hand. David reminds us that time flies and our years are as nothing before God.

David also tells us that the PURSUIT OF WEALTH IS FUTILE (39:6, 11). The old proverb that says "You can't take it with you" is true! Why fight and claw for things of this earth when in the end you will leave it all behind. The accumulation of stuff, prestige, and power will not benefit you in the next life.

Finally, David says that LIVING IN SIN IS FOOLISH (39:8-10). Why spend the short time we have on earth being disciplined by the Lord for our sin? David's plea is for God to "look away" from his sin and forgive so that he might experience the joy of a right relationship with God again (39:13).

Three phrases in this psalm instruct us on how to make the most of our lives.

- 1) **SHOW ME!** (39:4) - We need the Lord to constantly remind us of how short a time we really have on this earth to serve Him.
- 2) **MY HOPE IS IN YOU!** (39:7) - What are we looking for out of life? Are we looking to please ourselves or are we looking to please God? Real joy only comes by putting our hope and trust in the Savior.
- 3) **SAVE ME!** (39:8) - Life can be miserable when living under the tyranny of sin. We need to keep short "sin lists" with God so we may live continually in His joy and love.

PRAYER THOUGHT: There is an old hymn that says: "Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." May this be our goal in life. Pray that God would **SHOW** you and **SAVE** you. Keep reminding yourself that your only **HOPE** is in the Lord. Pray for opportunities to use your life to give glory to God.