

**YOUR FINAL DAY ON EARTH**  
**The Psalm 39 Study #1**  
August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**TEXT:** Psalm 39:4-7

**CONSIDER THIS:** Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758) was America’s greatest theologian and the driving force behind the First Great Awakening. While in his early twenties, he wrote a list of lifelong resolutions that continue to inspire Christians today. Among his resolutions was this: *“Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life. Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.”* Today we begin a series based on Psalm 39 titled **YOUR FINAL DAY ON EARTH**. May God grant us listening ears, receptive hearts and renewed commitments.

**GOD’S WORD TEACHES US ...**

**I “SHOW ME MY LIFE’S END”**

- A) Life is short, this I must always remember. In 39:4 the Psalmist (David) is **not** requesting that he be told the precise time when he will die. David’s request is that God impress upon his mind:
1. There is an end to my life
  2. It comes so very quickly
- B) How is Psalm 39 to be summarized? David knows his thoughts have been taking him to a dark place of discouragement and bitterness (39:1-3). It seems as though the wicked prosper. It seems to David that God is punishing him (39:9-11). In the privacy of his mind David had been thinking, “Come on God, what are you doing to me?”

Christian, have you had those moments of doubting God or being angry when you were glad other people could not read your mind?  
When you decided to keep your mouth shut because people would be shocked to hear your thoughts about your perceptions of what God was doing?  
This is probably what David meant in 39:1-2, 9 when he chose to stay silent.

- C) A question to David: “David, in this your season of dark thoughts, if you could request one thing from God, what would it be?”

*Show me, O LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days;  
Let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreath;  
The span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath.*

D) What did David hope to gain from this prayer?

1. Wisdom (Psalm 90:12)
2. Hope (39:7)
3. Dependence on God (39:12; I Chronicles 29:10-18)
4. Right perspective (Psalm 73:1-6, 13-14, 21-26)

Christian, if you don't regularly recall how fleeting this present life is you will never have the right perspective on life and your understanding of things (wisdom) will be stunted.

## II THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

A) David's prayer for perspective in Psalm 39:4-6 taps into a larger biblical theme. See Luke 12:16-20; James 4:13-15; I Corinthians 7:29-31 and I Peter 1:24-25.

And so, the wisdom of God's Word compels me to never let a day go by without asking myself, "If I knew I had one final day on this earth, 24 hours before I step into eternity, what would I do? What things would matter most to me if this were to be my final day?"

B) As a Christian, here are the things that I would do ...

1. Pray (praise, thanksgiving, intercession)
2. Search and meditate on God's Word
3. Confess my sins
4. Express my love to family and friends
5. Address broken/strained relationships
6. Share the gospel!
7. Serve
8. Give
9. Leave final words of encouragement, instruction, legacy

**NOTE:** The remainder of this series, **YOUR FINAL DAY ON EARTH**, will examine these 9 things from a biblical perspective and ask two questions:

1. Why?
2. How?

**KEY:** If these are the 9 things that would matter most on my final day, then they should be what matter most **TODAY**.

*SHOW ME, O LORD,  
MY LIFE'S END AND THE NUMBER OF MY DAYS;  
LET ME KNOW HOW FLEETING IS MY LIFE.*