

## **It is a fact: Life is short!**

### **Did you say: “So what?”**

A famous scientist died recently at the age of 76. Someone pointed out that Albert Einstein also died at age 76. The fact that these two great scientists died at the same age is just coincidence. Nevertheless, the age number reminds me of what the psalmist (Moses) said:

*“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.” (Ps. 90:10)*

Of course, we can cite examples of people who departed well ahead of the age of 70 or of centenarians who defied the odds to enjoy long life. Still, without focusing on the number, we should have no difficulty to be honest with ourselves to recognize that longevity (no matter how enduring in human terms) does not detract from the following absolute truths:

- Human life is frail and brief, like a watch in the night

*“Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found, banished like a vision of the night.” (Job 20:8)*

- Death and judgment are inescapable, regardless of whether we are great men and women, or forgotten people living in abject conditions.

*“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” (Heb. 9:27-28)*

If human life is frail and brief; death and judgment, inescapable; are we prepared for it? Do we care to plead with God: “Show me, LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.”? (Ps. 39:4)

**“We cannot apply our hearts unto wisdom, as instructed by Moses, except we number every day as our possible last day.”**

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What then, if we get to know our life’s end and the number of our days? Do we gain a heart of wisdom to know how to prepare for it? (Ps. 90:12)

Actually, counting our days is not meant to be in the literal sense of knowing exactly how long we will live. Rather, it is Moses' plea for God's help that we may overcome the trouble and sorrow and make each day count for God by living holy lives.

Seeing our transitory life for what it is against the backdrop of eternal life, the trouble and sorrow are conquerable. Instead of surrendering to despair, we can apply the annoying experience to sharpen our wisdom to focus our spiritual sight right, on the future – the eternal!

Man's greatest problem is not primarily his frailty and brevity of life, but the cause of these – his sin – whereby he has consumed God's anger and become terrified by His indignation. (Ps. 90:7) Because of sin, we face trouble and sorrow in all spheres of our life. Death of our self-seeking plots supervenes our hopes and duly leads us to spiritual death; i.e., separation from God in eternity.

After the lamentation of 90:10, Moses followed on in vv.13-17 with his pleading to God for an outpouring of His compassion and love. Thankfully, despite the bad news of death through Adam, we have renewed hope by The GOOD NEWS of LIFE THROUGH CHRIST! (Rom. 5:12-21)

**Only one life! 'Twill soon be past.**

**Only what's done for Christ will last.**

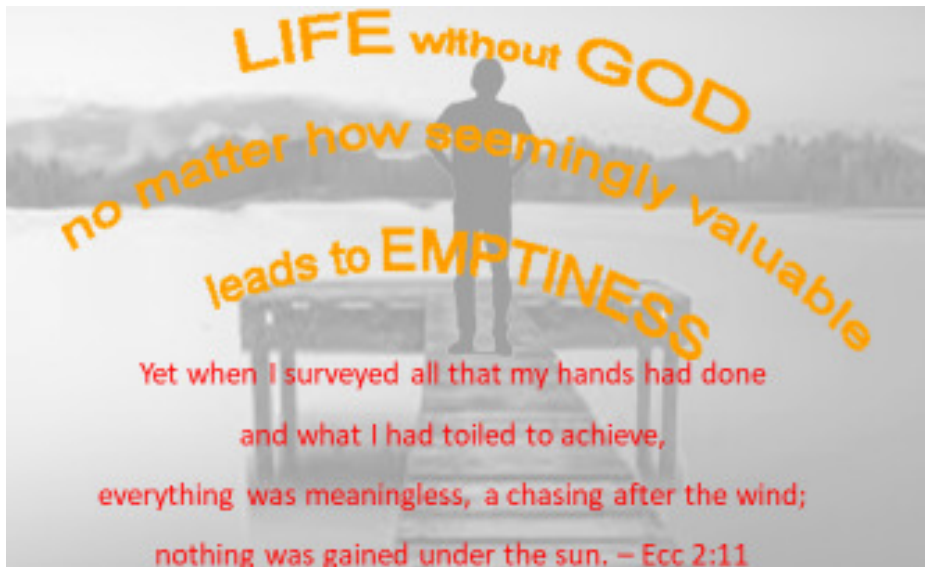
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The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is God's love manifested in its utmost. This love is for everyone who seeks, to experience. Sadly, people do not often seek this love but the love for perishable things and selfish desires.

In v.17, Moses asks God to “establish the work of our hands.” This is an acknowledgement that whatever we can do, we need God to be behind us in establishing (or “forming”) the work and giving His blessing.

If it was just our wants to have a nice church building, without seeking out God's will and guidance through our prayers and petitions, we would be all toiling in vain. On hindsight, we can tell very clearly that the miraculous provision by God was an indication of His presence in the whole project.

In the accounts of Moses' life and struggles in the Pentateuch, we can see that despite his faithful response to God's calling in "evolving" the history of Israel, he had no lack of "very human" and spiritual struggles to contend with. Our Christian life experiences undergo different shades of the same too. Due to our human weakness, we vacillate between a clear sense of God's calling and doubts about what we are doing. We cannot be on our own. In fact, we are never on our own in respect of any calling from God. With each calling, God is at work, establishing the work of our hands, whereby struggles may make our hearts dither but the work that God establishes will be finally done – soli Deo Gloria!



Whatever you are, great or little in the eyes of men, life is short – as a matter of fact. Whether you soak yourself in a life solely of your own will, or seek God to establish the work of your hands, you know your chance of hearing the Father say:

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" – Matt. 25:21, 23.*

*John Lee*