

ReConnect – to God

Psalm 90

MPS God calls us to number all our days by the gospel of Jesus Christ to walk in the blessing of His wisdom.

OBJ Four BLESSINGS of Godly Wisdom COMPEL us to Number our Days by the gospel.

INTRO Well, here we are in 2021, the year we all prayed for in 2020. (Too soon?)

ILLUS “Closed for Revegetation” sign. I recently spent time in the Colorado backcountry. Along the trail were these signs where they were trying to re-grow what had been trampled down by overuse. Every time I saw one, I could not help but think, “Wow. What a powerful image to describe this last year, but I fear we’ve ignored the opportunity by continued use.”

ILLUS Deconstruction of faith trend A few weeks ago I mentioned a recent trend of famous people announcing the “deconstruction of their faith.” The list includes some of the most famous people in Christianity today. I ran across an article that addresses this trend head on and agreed with the author’s summation when he said, “Exvangelicals can blame it on the youth groups they frequented, their parents, and everyone else they desire to, but the onus us upon them at the end of the day.”¹

I recently had a close, lifelong friend declare that he was “done with organized religion”. He still believed in God, but just didn’t see any need for other Christians in the local church. The interesting part of this decision was that he has not been active in church in years. His denial of the faith did not include honest, genuine searching and seeking for God. Rather, it included greater immersion of time, dollars and energy in travel, recreation and adventure vacation, and more indulgence in personal pleasure and preference. And all this at the expense of forsaking the active participation of his faith. Nothing about his decision included any semblance of gospel wisdom, only his conclusion confirmed by personal experience. I am convinced far more of our deconstruction decisions are based on pseudo-constructs that we’ve created in a vacuum rather than true assessments of what is taking place, driven principally by personal preference, consumed by worldly pleasure.

Have you considered how this last season, 18 months now, have reshaped or conditioned you and your family?

TRANS Deconstruction is nothing new, just as living far from God is not either. The oldest Psalm in the Scriptures declares our great need to reconnect with God, and the great blessing and benefit it brings to life.

God calls us to number all our days by the gospel of Jesus Christ to walk in the blessing of His wisdom.

READ Psalm 90:1-17 A prayer of Moses, the man of God

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ²For before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. ³You return man to dust and say, "Return O Children of man." ⁴For a thousand years as but as yesterday in your sight when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵You sweep them away as with a flood, they are like a dream; like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed, in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. ⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

*¹²So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. ¹³Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! **Psalm 90:1-17***

¹ https://www.patheos.com/blogs/chorusinthecaos/exvangelical-deconstruction-stories/?utm_source=share_bar Last accessed 21-0811.



In Psalm 90, Moses addresses the Lord with a confession of His all-encompassing steadfast love and provision; “*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*” And who knows this better than the man who led the Hebrew people out of the place of their living and into wilderness wandering. For a people who had only known life in slavery, and believed this misery to be their destiny, Moses knew God was their true home.

Moses’s prayer begins with creation and builds an exaltation of the staggering greatness and infiniteness of God. But glorious exaltation immediately moves from staggering to sobering, God returns man to dust by His command. J.I. Packer comments, “The eternal existence of God is here mentioned to set forth, by contrast, the brevity of human life.”² Time holds no constraint on God, neither in the longevity of His being nor in waning His glory. Man is mortal and temporal, constrained to return to dust and succumb to time. Surely this is the point of the Psalm, to show us reality by contrasting us against the One who is immortal, and immeasurable in every way. [Moses’ one resonation is that there is no comparison; God is all, man barely anything at all.](#)

Moses highlights not only the shortness of life, but its futility because of sin. Man’s days are brought to an end by God’s wrath. We were not created for death, but it is ours due to our sin. And no one faces death without dismay. It is beyond our comprehension and control. The length of our days is short, their span but toil and trouble. [“All our days pass away” means not simply the existence of them, but the fullness of our days passes away.](#)

TRANS [How are we to process such hard words of heavy reality?](#)

GSPL First and foremost, Christians recognize that these words are no longer true of our life, now hidden with God in Christ.^{Col3:3} J. I. Packer warns of a wrong understanding; “We may learn much from it, but we ought not to misapply it by taking to ourselves, as the beloved of the Lord, that which was chiefly true of those to whom God had sworn in his wrath that they should not enter into his rest.”³ What is true of our life in Christ removes sin’s full affect from life without Christ. [Christians are destined for God’s rest, and there is much to learn in these words when applied by the gospel, especially for gospel ministers.](#)

Derek Kidner’s summary is of great help, “It puts our world into its context, which is God, and our time-span into its huge setting of eternity. This is humbling to human pride (the point of this verse), but heartening with regard to God’s interventions and their timing (the point of 2 Pet. 3:8f.).”⁴ [Moses’ prayer is to put our life into God, and humble our heart before Him; his counsel invites us to this regular, daily practice of accounting our days to get a heart of God’s wisdom.](#)

A heart of godly wisdom is gained as we daily “account for our lives”. We should number our days because while God’s years are *unsearchable*^{Job36:26}, He has numbered our days.^{Psalms39:4-5} Between the ultimate hope of victory from God’s wrath as sin’s deathblow (.11; “*Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?*”), and the reality of life’s daily struggle whereby we cry out to God (.13; *Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!*”), there is a tension and pressure within which God meets us by the gospel to shape us by His eternal wisdom.

[In the hard and heavy days, when nothing goes right and everyone seems against you, how do you respond? Are you prone to blame and complain, or turn to the Lord and seek Him, guard your tongue, and wait for God? In the light and free days, do you rejoice in the Lord or barely remember Him because you do not feel your need for Him as much? In times of chaos](#)

² J. I. PACKER, “[Introduction](#),” in *Psalms*, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993), 21.

³ J. I. PACKER, “[Introduction](#),” in *Psalms*, 22. Packer writes, “Anger and wrath are the sting of death, and in these believers have no share; love and mercy now conduct us to glory by way of the tomb. It is not seemly to read these words at a Christian’s funeral without words of explanation, and a distinct endeavor to show how little they belong to believers in Jesus. To apply an ode written by the leader of the legal dispensation under circumstances of particular judgment, in reference to a people under penal censure, to those who fall asleep in Jesus seems to be the height of blundering. We may learn much from it, but we ought not to misapply it by taking to ourselves, as the beloved of the Lord, that which was chiefly true of those to whom God had sworn in his wrath that they should not enter into his rest. When, however, a soul is under conviction of sin, the language of this psalm is highly appropriate to his case, and will naturally suggest itself to the distracted mind. No fire consumes like God’s anger, and no anguish so troubles the heart as his wrath.”

⁴ Derek Kidner, [Psalms 73–150: An Introduction and Commentary](#), vol. 16, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975), 360.



and confusion, when life seems to come apart, do you seek ways to serve others, or run and hide to protect yourself? Do you listen in prayer as much as you talk, or recite from God by His Word as much as you list to God by your word?

These are the considerations that must be before us in “numbering our days”. Accounting must include our whole being, our words and deeds, actions and attitudes, and heart adorations and inclinations. In the midst of our weekly rigor and the stillness of our rest we must ask, “Is my heart set on Christ at all times, consumed with Jesus who IS wisdom?”

TRANS Many of us monitor the activity of our life / body on our wrist to measure every metric of bodily function. This can be a helpful practice. The longer you maintain your heart rate in a certain zone, the more ‘bad you burn’ and ‘good you earn’, right! But what if we took great pains to make sure we gave the same intentionality to our “heart’s spiritual well-being”! **How much spiritual monitoring have you done over the last year?**

ILLUS Numbering Our Days by The Gospel for Godly Wisdom

- **How We Number Our Days** image –

We tend to “number” our days pretty simply. If we do well, succeed, feel good about or experience something good from, then that’s a “plus”, and the better the good, the bigger the “plus”. Then, if we do something wrong, fail, don’t feel good about or experience some sense of pain, guilt or negative experience, well, that goes the other way to become a “minus”; and the worse it was the bigger the “negative” number. The problem with this system is this; there is no answer to resolve our negatives failures and their effects, and the victories do not remain or satisfy. At best, our negative numbers crush us and our positive bloat us.

TRANS But “numbering our days” to gain a heart of wisdom is NOT about our performance, but our faith and trust that includes an accounting of our life by remembering the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **Numbering our Days by the Gospel for a Heart of Wisdom** image -

Surely the scale remains, but it does not provide the “final tally”. When we “number our days” in light of the gospel, Jesus is our final score, the number that makes us wise in godliness. Surely, we must account for where we walk in obedience by faith and fail in rebellious sin. Holy Spirit leads us in this by conviction. But all our failures AND our successes return us to the cross for the glory of God. We are WHO we are NOT because of our failures NOR our successes, but because of the One who bought and paid for us to make us a New Creation.

ILLUS 35 years, 1 month, 2 weeks, and 5 / 6.5 / 8 hours ago the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus regenerated my heart for saving faith, and all this following 16 years, 8 months, 3 days and 20 hours of testing and rebellion. I haven’t always agreed or liked His ways. I haven’t followed His Word. I have not always been faithful to Him in all this time, neither before or after my new birth. But in every year, month, day, hour, minute or second, no matter how the time has been measured, I have never known any instant when God was not faithful and true to His Word, and good and loving to me far more than I deserved. **The delight or difficulty of your days are no mistake unknown to God but the means by which He is making you into the likeness of the One who IS eternal wisdom, Jesus Christ.**

OBJ **Four BLESSINGS of godly wisdom COMPEL us to number our days by the gospel.**

When we walk in godly wisdom...

1. **The steadfast love of God SATISFIES with JOY for all our days.** (.14)

¹⁴*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

God reminds us that we are His children. He satisfies the deepest longings of our heart NOT with trinkets, but with His steadfast love. We make the mistake of trying to “number our life” to give it value, instead of numbering our days to glean the value, worth, power, and glory in light of God’s wisdom. When we do this, we elevate self but never receive godly wisdom. **Christians number our days so ONLY God’s love in Jesus defines us in every way.**



APPL Number your days to learn to be satisfied in God's love by keeping your own regular "life accounting" in a gospel journal, where you record the simplest gospel lessons so you can continue to feast for the remainder of your days. Read those who have done it so well until it becomes natural for you too. **ILLUS** Jim Elliot Journals - an exceptional model as he reads one chapter of scripture and makes a gospel application. [You know you are growing in godly wisdom when the steadfast love of God satisfies you in the depth of our being.](#)

When we walk in godly wisdom...

2. **The JOY of Jesus Christ OUTLASTS the afflictions upon us.** (.15)

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

If I have learned anything in the last year, it is the anchoring power of God's joy. In this season I have learned HOW the joy of the Lord is our strength. The waves of sorrow and affliction may rise and fall and become turbulent on top, but the Lord's joy is the current that runs deep and strong below. Joy has a staying power to it, knowing it will be more than the affliction. It doesn't mean you are unaffected by the affliction, but it does mean you are not overrun by it. When the joy of the Lord is your strength, afflictions do not tear you apart because while they may last for a time the morning will come and bring joy. ^{Psalm30:5} [You know you are growing in godly wisdom when the joy of the Lord anchors you to outlast your afflictions.](#)

When we walk in godly wisdom...

3. **God reveals His POWER through your labor.** (.16)

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Our broken means of numbering often causes us to look away from God, or to look on Him in suspicion. We look around at all that is going on and think, "I can't do anything in this situation." And, instead of thinking, as we ought to, "How wonderful, now it really all does depend on God.", we incorrectly think instead, "We'll just have to wait for a better day." Christians live faith-deplete when we measure our days by what they offer to us instead of what Christ will bring through them. The Bible teaches that when Christians look at the difficulty facing us, we are to "see" that the One who is with us is greater than what is against us. ^{2Kings6:16} We know that God brings good for us from everything. ^{Rom8:28} When Jesus said, "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.*" ^{John 14:1}, He actually meant it!

Our means of "numbering" can be so broken. Leadership principles teach that we tend to over-estimate what can be accomplish in one year and underestimate what can be accomplished in five. Spiritual leadership principles remind us that we always underestimate what God can do in an instant. What if we stopped praying as much for God to change or fix our situation and started praying, "God show up with YOUR power in the midst of every moment, and make me more like you now IN this situation so that ONLY your power and glory can be credited." Let's stop looking for the "eject" handle, and pull the "resurrection power" one instead! [We know we are growing in godly wisdom when ALL our labors demonstrate the power of God, no matter the situation.](#)

When we walk in godly wisdom...

4. **God's favor establishes the work of our hands beyond the days of our lives.** (.17)

¹⁷*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!*

I direct you to think of Joseph here, whose life was defined by the steadfast love and favor of God upon him. He was the one man whom the whole world came sought out to be saved in the famine. ^{Gen41:57} He lived his life to do well what he knew how to do, and God used his labors to save the whole world! You may not think much of what you are or can do for the Lord, but it is not our labors alone that matter. What matters is that "*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*" ^{Col3:23-24} [We know we are growing in godly wisdom when God establishes the labor of our hands to outlast the days of our life.](#)

[God calls us to number all our days by the gospel of Jesus Christ to walk in the blessing of His wisdom.](#)



CLOSE Today, God is calling each one of us, YOU, to reconnect to Him as your dwelling place, and know the blessing of walking in His wisdom. **Where do you need to return to the Lord today, to ReConnect your life with Him as your dwelling place?**

I have no doubt many of you have at least toyed with deconstructing or throwing off your own faith in Jesus. But before you do so, why not make a true numbering of your days according to the One who IS Truth. You will find He is as He has always been, the dwelling place for all who trust in Him. As you number your days, ask yourself, "Has anything in the world even begun to promise that "what it starts it will complete to perfection" as God has promised? Is there any indication that the world will work everything for your good, EVERYTHING? This is not a season to deconstruct or throw off, but to return to the Lord and find that He is still faithful and true; He is still our refuge and dwelling place of unimaginable power, favor, joy and satisfaction.

