

## **A Tale Told**

*For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. – Psalm 90:9*

As you learn to read God's Word by the leading of His Spirit, you will find that God has much to say in the sacred scriptures about your unique, human life. It is a gift from Him, to be sure. While God has a perfect will for it, other factors are permitted to affect it. Time, events, human free will, devilish temptation, and God's sovereignty work in concert to orchestrate its symphony. But make no mistake, the Lord has a specific reason for and purpose in the breath you draw. In our text, the psalmist says our lives are like a tale that is told – i.e., a story being played out. Meditation upon this inspired insight will strengthen our hearts, our faith, and our resilience in spiritual matters.

We spend our years. Spending denotes value. We spend things of value. Your life has value – significant value in the sight of God. He entrusts it to you to use wisely. You can, like the man in Jesus' parable, squander it by selfishly hiding it away in vain pursuits, or you can invest the talents to gain the more. How are you spending your years?

Our years. This very same psalm seems to indicate that the natural course of God's plan is seventy years for human breath. More than that, while troublesome, is nonetheless blessing. Lives cut off prior to that are the result of either the curse, human interference, or a nexus of both. Someone once said, "Eat right, exercise daily, and die anyway." While perhaps pessimistically sardonic, it is nonetheless true. An over-emphasis on the physical life will be very disappointing. Our days are numbered, and we are wise to focus the vast majority of our attention on things of eternal value.

A tale that is told. God is its author, and you are its co-author. It had a beginning and its earlier chapters have set the stage for where you are right now. That is neither an excuse nor a license – it just explains in some fashion what is happening today. You are here because this is where the epic has brought you. You have no power to re-write anything that is written, but you do possess the ability to influence the next pages. By purposing to live each moment by faith and for God's glory, you are building a solid theme and important lessons that will make your life a story worth re-telling your posterity when it finally comes to an end. And because of Christ, your life is not just a marvelous poem expressing His beautiful redemptive power here and now (Eph. 2:10), but it is an ongoing saga whose epilogue will continue to be written for eternity in His kingdom.

Your life is a story. Identify the chapter divisions, decide upon the lessons you want to teach, and offer your recommendations to God. But then, let Him write. Be His pen and watch what a wonderful tale He tells.

– D. Murcek