

November 12 & 13, 2011 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Text: Psalm 90:1-12 Theme: Every Day is Important!

Ps. 90: 1 & 2 says, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God!--exclamation point. God's all-powerful plan of creation and care for the world, the universe and all of us is perfect in every detail.

Our message theme is: Every Day is Important. We all know that is not the case for everyone of us. We procrastinate-- "I'll feel better tomorrow; then the project will get done. We waste time watching too much TV. Endless tunes on our I-Pod replace work and serious effort. Computer addictions have lead to lost sleep, lost jobs, and even failing businesses.

How soon wasted time becomes wasted days, and wasted lives. Sin has the most ingenuous ways of ruining the importance of every day. All those days given us by our Lord are important days. We fritter them away dabbling in all kinds of life's pleasures that seem important at the moment. Those pleasures count for nothing.

We can make every day important because our God entrusts us with gifts and dares us to increase these gifts all by ourselves. The Holy Spirit equips and sends us. The body of Christ nurtures our gifts and together we then reflect God's generosity. Those first two verses of Psalm 90 show us most clearly God's ultimate generosity.

That generosity is showered on us in Word, in Sacrament, and in Fellowship!

We dwell with our God forever and ever. Since before the beginning of time he has been our God. He is not just the God of a few select people. He wants to be the God of all people for all eternity. And our time in the continuum of eternity is like grass that grows with the morning dew and at sundown is faded and withered. That is using God's clock to look at what we do, how we act, how we use our time to make every day important.

Vs. 9 says: "The length of our days is seventy years---or eighty if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." Our sister Ruth Koester died this week at the age of 101. We can't say that her years quickly passed, but when God uses his timepiece, her life "quickly passed and flew away."

We all pass under God's judgment. There are no "Get out of Judgement cards!" As long as we are living the day's our God gives us we need to ask him, Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom!" When we open our hearts and minds and all the corners of our life to our forgiving God, he gladly gives us a heart is wisdom!

What are we to do with that "heart of wisdom" if our time on God's clock is like grass that starts in the morning, lives but one day, and then withers and dies as the sun goes down?

We can pray with the Psalmist: "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing

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live that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ..May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children." If that is our mood: joy, gladness, living in God's splendor all the good works we perform are carrying out God's good works to all with whom we live.

Our lives may be short. Don't spend that segment of time of each important day suffering in doubt and despair. Christ has forgiven all of our sins that surely without our God lead to despair! Baptism and The Lord's Supper erase all doubt, despair, and that feeling of uselessness.

The final words of this Psalm bless us with a mighty benediction. "May the favor of the Lord, our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us--yes, establish the work of our hands."

When God establishes the work of our hands those are truly good works. All of us here at St. Pauls need to recognize again and again that the favor of our God rests upon us. As we struggle with the tensions that divide us; as we don't let go of old issues that some of us have forgotten because they are really forgiven, let the new good works of your hands serve to build up our congregation. God says he start our good works on the path he chooses for us; he establishes them. Open your hearts and lives to God's great directions!

Our time may be short. Yet, with our God leading and we listening and working, He will establish the work of our hands just as powerfully as we heard in the opening verses. "From everlasting to everlasting you are God" And this is our God!

That holy promise from our God is that work done with mortal hands can and does make a lasting difference. It really is an eternal difference that comes with God's blessing. And that is even when using God's everlasting, never stopping clock. Every day is important whether we use our clock or God's eternal clock! Work this week to make every day important as our God judges important. We can sing for joy and be glad all our days!

Amen