



Today's Sermons

Morning: Great Lessons from Acts
Evening: The Death of A Nation

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	33
Sunday AM Worship	50
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Wed. Bible Study	15
Offering	\$1716



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT TO LIVE?

Roger D. Campbell

The average life expectancy for a woman living in Japan is 86 years. That tops the charts worldwide for women, while men living in the small European country of San Marino are expected to live to an average of 81 years. In comparison, men in Afghanistan have a life expectancy of 42 years, and for the women there it is only 41 years. [Taken on 05/30/09 from <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/World/2009/05/21/9524241-ap.html>]. What about Americans? The average life span for Americans is about 78 years. [Taken on 05/30/09 from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_09.pdf].

So, how long do *you* personally expect to live? I am not asking how long you would *like* to live, but how long you *expect* to live. Surely none of us living in the year 2009 are entertaining the thought of matching Methuselah's lengthy life span. But, seriously, are you anticipating living to the age of thirty? Sixty? Eighty? One hundred?

The Bible makes it clear that, whether our sojourning on earth lasts for 10 years or 110 (like Joshua's did, Joshua 24:29), it will one day come to an end. Unless you and I are alive when the Christ comes again (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17), we will die. That is just the way it

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is. We can take measures to improve and maintain our health. We can have a healthy diet, refrain from the use of alcohol and tobacco, exercise regularly, remain active, stay away from hang gliding, skydiving, and riding Brahma bulls, faithfully take doctor-prescribed medicines, and be defensive, grade A drivers. But still, *it is going to happen*. In some cases we can prolong death, but we cannot avoid it. How many times have you heard, read, or thought about the message of Hebrews 9:27? *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

I can complain about it, deny it, or seek out men’s counsel about it, but the truth is, I cannot change the reality that I am one day going to die. My life on earth, as is yours, is only a temporary adventure. In a variety of ways, and in several different Bible locations, the Lord uses language that reminds us that our earthly habitation will not be a never-ending one. No Bible figure brings this truth home more clearly than the familiar message of James 4:14: *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”* [all emphasis throughout is mine, rdc].

Consider some of the other interesting Bible expressions that point out the brevity of human life. Job said it this way: *“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and are spent without hope”* (Job 7:6). A weaver’s shuttle is "a device containing a reel or spool of the woof thread, used in weaving to carry the thread back and forth between the warp threads" in rapid fashion [Quoted by Homer Hailey, *A Commentary on Job*, p. 80].

Later, Job stated, *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not”* (Job 14:1,2). The patient man from the land of Uz also said, *“Now my days are swifter than a post [runner, NKJV]: they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey”* (Job 9:25,26).

More than once in the Bible we read of man’s earthly existence compared to grass. For instance, *“As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more”* (Psalm 103:15,16).

In a prayer to Jehovah, King David confessed, *“For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding”* (1 Chronicles 29:15). Earlier, a wise woman who spoke to David stated, *“For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again . . .”* (2 Samuel 14:14). Again in connection with David, the Psalmist wrote,

“Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee . . .” (Psalm 39:5).

The frailty and brevity of human life is one of the main themes in the 90th Psalm. There we read, *“. . . we spend our years as a tale that is told [We finish our years like a sigh, NKJV]. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away”* (Psalm 90:9,10).

After King Hezekiah of Judah recovered from his sickness and Jehovah extended his life by 15 years, he exclaimed, *“Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd’s tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me”* (Isa. 38:12). Like all the rest of us, Hezekiah’s “end” came one day.

All of the pictures presented in these Bible passages remind us of the fleeting nature of life. Whether life is compared to grass, a swift-flying eagle, or a shadow, we recognize that no one can change the fact that each of us will one day *“go the way of all the earth”* (1 Kings 2:2). In view of the uncertainty of life, realizing that we are not guaranteed even one more breath, we need to act wisely and at every instant be ready for death and the coming of the Master (Matthew 25:10).

While our earthly sojourn is only temporary, there is another phase of our existence that cannot be overlooked. Yes, our physical body will one day cease to breathe and have life, but our spirit will live on forever. May God help us to prepare to live with Him eternally in heaven (1 Peter 1:4).

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 29 – Song Service
- Nov – Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back One Hour!
- Nov 5 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Nov13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell