

## Make Me to Know My End

*Ps 39:1-3 I said, "I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me." I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; and my sorrow was stirred up. My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned.*

It appears that the Psalmist here has undergone some trial or trials. We know that David went through many trials in his life. And it is apparent that the Psalmist does not want to speak in such a way that his words might question the sovereign purpose of God as it works out in his life in such a way that the ungodly would have cause to question the wisdom and goodness of God. And we as men who neither know nor understand the secret things of God as we sometimes find ourselves wondering why God has permitted certain things that take place both in society as a whole or in our own personal walk. It is for this reason that we must be careful to guard our tongue lest we would bring a reproach upon our God.

This morning being the second Sunday of a new year I want only to consider the part of this Psalm that speaks of the brevity of our life. And also to consider how we ought to look to God alone for our salvation and in thankful response carefully live each moment of the year before using such a way so as to glorify God that to Him and to Him alone all glory might be given. Let us hear the prayer of the Psalmist and make application to our own lives. Reading from Psalm 39:4-9 *"Then I spoke with my tongue, Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them. "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of the foolish. I was mute, I did not open my mouth, because it was You who did it."* Two things I want us to note this morning, 1 Make me to know my end, and 2 Our hope is in the Lord alone.

### A. Make me to know my end

1. It is not uncommon for men to live as if this life is everything and only material things are important
  - a. We hear the foolish response of the farmer whose crops had yielding a great harvest

Luke 12:19-20 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."

- b. We see here the common attitude of man, death is far away, it will not affect me
- c. How often men in the very face of death will defy it power over them

### 2. Make me to know how frail I am

- a. David may well have been placing too much importance on the moment
- b. Some feel that having gone through trials he was of a mind to fault God
- c. Regardless of what has proceeded in his thoughts he now calls out to God

(1) Make me to see the my frailty

(2) How important it is for us to realize that we cannot change the providence of God in our lives

(3) As our Lord said, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" Matt 6:27

### 3. The Psalmist then begins to speak of the shortness of man's life

- a. A handbreadth - smallest of measurements of man's physical being
- b. the width of the palm of your hand
- c. Our life is quite short in its greatest length of time
- d. Methuselah lived to be 969 - in God's as a passing day - watch in the night
- e. In God's sight it is nothing
- f. But a vapor that is here for just a moment of time

4. He then speaks of the vanity of life itself - *surely every man's life is but a vapor*
  5. He speaks then of the vanity of any gain a man may make in life - *Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them.*
    - a. Whose then shall these things be
    - b. Cannot take much in a casket, and it would be of no value anyway
    - c. Burial places of the Pharaohs filled with wealth - still in the tomb
    - d. Why Jesus tells us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven (Mt. 6:20)
    - e. Giving of your time, talents and tithes - widows mite
    - f. What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul
  6. Therefore it is important that we know our end, the final outcome
    - a. It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment
    - b. It is more than the shortness of life that should concern us, but the fact that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ
- B. Our hope is in the Lord alone - *"And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of the foolish.*
1. What do I wait for? What shall I look to?
    - a. Shall I continue to look at things present
    - b. Shall I continue to look to myself, my weaknesses, my sinfulness?
  2. My hope is in You
    - a. Like coming to the end of our rope
    - b. It is Christ Jesus that came into the world to save sinners

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Also we have come to believe **and know** that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*

- c. The question must always be - to whom shall we go

*John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

3. What does he see as his need at this time?
  - a. Deliverance from the guilt and punishment of his transgressions
  - b. Our only hope is forgiveness of sins
  - c. Our only hope is an imputed righteousness
  - d. Only a fool would trust in himself, - do not make me the reproach of the foolish
  - e. No wonder David cried out - My hope is in you

CONCLUSION: Dear flock let this be your cry and meditation at the beginning of this New Year

Lord - Make me to know how short my lifespan is before you

I am but a vapor

Of what value are the things material that I gather about me?

I have nothing to bring to you to gain your favor

I acknowledge my sin - it is ever before me

I look to you alone for faith, forgiveness and mercy

Help me to live each day of this coming year for you and your glory alone

May I out of thankfulness give to you of my time, my talents and my tithes that you might be glorified

*1 Cor 10:31-32 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*