

"THE WISE IN HEART"**Introduction**

1. This is a Psalm by Moses: the oldest Psalm
2. It says much about TIME (v.1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 12...)
3. Our text reminds us to value time:
ILLUSTRATION: an hour-glass / a clock / a calendar

1. GOD TEACHES MEN TO VALUE TIME

- 1) This is an essential lesson:
 - (i) we are apt to waste time
 - (ii) we forget we shall only live once
 - (iii) life will be soon over + cannot be recalled
 - (iv) especially in youth, we forget life is short
So: "Teach us, Lord" is a needful prayer.
- 2) Moses lived to see man's life-span reduced:
 - (i) consider the ante-diluvians' ages! (Gen. 5)
 - (ii) then: the patriarchs' ages – and now ours.
- 3) Against all this, look at God's age:
 - (i) v.1-2: "everlasting"
 - (ii) v.4: a different time-scale entirely
 - (iii) v.5: our little life!
APPLICATION: Do you pray this prayer?

2. THERE IS WISDOM REQUIRED TO USE TIME ARIGHT

- 1) Only God can make us wise – or give us true understanding – few people ever get it.
ILLUSTRATION: Solomon: "I said I would be wise" (Eccl. 7:23)
- 2) What is this biblical wisdom?
 - (i) to see the proper value of anything:
ILLUSTRATION: selling a masterpiece for £10.

- (ii) remembering that it is how life is in the end that matters!
ILLUSTRATION: the lesson of King Croesus

- 3) How does all this relate to time:
 - (i) to spend our strength for real value
ILLUSTRATION: money v. Bible knowledge
 - (ii) marriage: marry in haste + repent at leisure – because not spiritually suited.
 - (iii) suffering: nothing much when seen in heaven's light: "...but for a moment".
- 4) The effect of wisdom is to lead us to live for God now, that we might enjoy Him in heaven forever.
APPLICATION: How wise are you + I?

3. THIS WISDOM IS TO BE SEEN IN EVERY PART OF OUR LIFE

- 1) Our Thoughts: "as a man thinketh..."
 - (i) discipline your thoughts to go up, not down
OBSERVE: See Paul: "things above"
ILLUSTRATION: a conversation in a train once
 - (ii) store good things in your mind by reading:
"Reading maketh a full man" (Bacon)
APPLICATION: Pray that God will give you a wise mind
- 2) Our Conscience: "void of offence"
 - (i) guilt defiles the conscience
 - (ii) resort regularly to Christ's blood
APPLICATION: Do not live with unconfessed sin
- 3) Our Habit in Life: "number our days"
 - (i) so as to use our life usefully
ILLUSTRATION: R.D. Wilson
 - (ii) that we may one day look back with comfort:
ILLUSTRATION: "Lord, I did what I could"

CONCLUSION**Illustration**: Bede's death bed.**PSALM****90: 1 – 5****90: 10 – 13****90: 14 – 17**