

Pray

Pray for the ministry to the dying; for clergy leading services to remind people of the shortness and futility of life without God and to present the gospel.

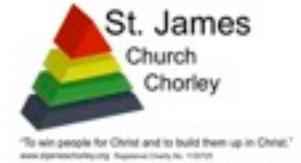
Pray for local hospices seeking to care for the dying and for chaplains working within them. Also for Life Now, established by George Thomas, seeking to set up a hospice for young adults in the North West.

Keep praying for the Lancashire Festival of Hope in September. Franklin Graham of the Billy Graham organisation is speaking at three evenings at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool and it is a great opportunity to take people along to hear the gospel.

*David Phillips,
June 2018*

The Psalms

Psalm 90 : O God Our Help



Don't forget the title in capitals is part of scripture, the bit in bold and italics is not.

Read Psalm 90

You are God - v1-2

1. Verse 1 echoes words Moses spoke when he blessed the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 33, particularly verse 27. What do you think it means to say that God is "our dwelling place"? Can you think of places in the New Testament that say something similar?

2. This Psalm has a lot to say about the shortness of human life but in contrast what do these opening verses say about God?

Toil and trouble - v3-11

3. What images are used and what things are said in these verses about the shortness of human life?

4. In what ways do you think people try to hide from the fact that we will die and why do they do that?

5. It is sometimes said that in the modern world we are much more sheltered from the reality of death than in the past. Do you think this is so and if so in what ways?

6. Read **Romans 5.12**. Why is death not natural?

7. What does this part of the Psalm say about God's wrath and anger? (There are actually three different Hebrew words used but two of them are translated as wrath in the ESV.) How is this linked to the shortness of life?

8. Look at your answer to question 3 - in speaking about the shortness of life what is said in the Psalm about the ultimate cause of death?

9. Traditionally Psalm 90 has been read at funerals (along with 1 Corinthians 15). What do think is the reason to drive home the fact that life is short at such an occasion?

10. Modern funerals are now often just celebrations of life (and a lot of people have set themselves up as 'celebrants'). Why has this changed and is it related to what we thought about in questions 4 & 5?

11. We could read Psalm 90 and see it as offering no hope of life beyond death. But what does **Hebrews 11.13-16** tell us about believers in the Old Testament times and their hope for the future?

A heart of wisdom

Read Psalm 90.12-17

Notice that each of these final six verses contains a petition, asking God for something.

12. Remembering what we have looked at so far why does numbering our days help us get a heart of wisdom?

13. The farmer and his barns in **Luke 12.16-21** is coming up soon in a children's spot. How did the farmer lack a heart of wisdom?

14. Notice how the word 'glad' links verses 14 and 15 together. What is it that we are asking God to satisfy us with in verse 14? Why should this make us glad and how can we work towards it ourselves?

15 What is it that we are asking God to make us glad about in verse 15? How is this more difficult? Could we rejoice in this if our hope was simply for this life?