## MEETING GOD IN THE MIDST OF FAILURE

An exposition of Psalm 90 at West Hills San Jose on January 16, 2022

**PASTORAL PRAYER**: O Great God, lofty and exalted, holy, sovereign righteous and just, we come to you as your children seeking to worship before you throne. We bring to you the groaning of all creation, the sorrows of the suffering, the sins of the lost the pain of the broken and the frustrations of life on earth and we ask you to return O Lord, and make things right. Come and make all things new and bring about the refreshing of all things by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray that you would renew your global church in worship and zeal for evangelism this year. Would you awaken all Christians every where to a fresh urgency for the task at hand. That those serve would serve with the strength of the Spirit. That those who lead would do so with zeal. That those who preach would do so with demonstrations of the Spirit and with power, and that those who pray would be stirred beyond measure to the task of intercession. I pray for our many missionaries who are serving over seas. I pray for Darren and Jodi Beck, would you encourage their hearts and strengthen their witness in Cambodia as they share the gospel, train pastors and translate Christian literature for the building up of the body there.

Lord I pray for the church in our city, would you make us one as you Lord Jesus are one with the Father and the Father is one with you. Would you be opening doors for the gospel everywhere. Would you be opening the doors for new ministry opportunities to serve those in need. Would you lead us AS A CHURCH in the way that you would have us go that we might honor you in all our ways. Establish the work of our hands upon us we ask.

Finally I pray for our local church. Thank you that we can be together, it is such a gift to be able to gather and sing and pray and hear from your Word, may we never take this gift for granted ever again. Thank you that as this latest round of sickness has passed through the church you have protected us, and you have healed those who have become sick. I pray for those who are at home sick today, would you encourage their hearts with your grace and heal their bodies and restore them back to us. And I pray for our time in the Word, would you help us all to have open ears and open hearts to hear what you would have to say to us, for God's glory and our joy. In Christ's name, amen.

**PROBLEM**: Well grace and peace West Hills. I am thrilled to be out of the sick house and back in the pulpit to open God's word with you this morning. Thank you for all of you who prayed for us and who offered help to us. We are truly truly blessed to be members of this church family.

I would like to begin this morning with a simple question that I believe our Psalmist is wrestling with this morning and that question is this: why go on? When you think about the things that make life difficult, when you think about all of the painful things that tomorrow might bring? Why do we keep waking up every day and trying to live? I think most people do it out of habit. Some people do it because they realize that just as there is tragedy in life there is also much joy to be found in friendship and family and the rest of the created world. This morning we are going to watch the Spirit of God work upon the heart of a man whose entire ministry appears to have failed. All of the great things He had accomplished were taken from

him, and the rest of his earthly life will be spent waiting and wandering as a consequence of his moral failure. The man, Moses, having seen the works of his hands slip through his fingers and fall to the ground, must bring his frustrations back to consider our question...why live? Why go on?

**MAIN POINT**: Life seems short, but with God's it's forever, so live with all your heart

**SETTING THE CONTEXT**: Please open your bibles to Psalm 90. And before I read let me briefly offer some context. In the superscription of the Psalm, the original Hebrew author wrote A prayer of Moses, the man of God. So this could mean a few different things. It could mean a Prayer originally uttered by Moses and recorded by others later, or a prayer offered in the tradition of how Moses prayed. I read through the arguments for both, I felt slightly more inclined to read this as a prayer BY Moses. I think the prayer reads like it is written by someone who is wandering the desert contemplating where home is and what it means to live under God's just wrath. This Psalm reads like the author is grieving some deep, aching and abiding frustrations about life. So if that is right, than here is the context.

Moses the man of God, was called by the Lord to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt. And so Moses went and confronted Pharaoh about letting the people go. When Pharaoh refused, God through Moses brought plagues upon the land. After 10 refusals met by 10 different plagues Pharaoh finally released the people from bondage. As Israel left Pharaoh's kingdom, he suddenly had a change of heart and his armies pursued them down to the red sea. In response God parted the red sea allowing His people to pass through safely, but when the armies of Egypt attempted to follow he caused the water to bury them in a mighty act of salvation for the people of God. God then entered into covenant with His people at Mount Siani and renewed the promises that He had made to their ancient ancestor Abraham, to bless the people with land, seed, and favor.

Now of course this is the quick and clean version of the story. For those of you who were with us in the book of Exodus, you know that across this journey there was grumbling and sinning and idol building bringing God's discipline upon the people. When God finally brought the people of Israel to the shores of the Jordan river and showed them the land of Canaan which He had promised to his forefathers, the people became terrified of the countries inhabitants and ultimately refused to go in. And because of this final failure and for many additional failures that occurred along the way, God said that's it, this generation that I brought out of Egypt is doomed to go and wander the desert for 40 years until all of them have passed away, and their children will inherit the land of promise. And the people grieved, but the people went. And Moses went with them...and over the course of that time of wandering I believe Moses began to write. And as he thought about the experiences of his life, and where he was now, he lifted his face to heaven and raised his hands and began to pray...and here was his prayer, let's humble our minds and open our hearts for the reading of the word of God.

**READING:** Psalm 90 A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. [1] Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. [2] Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. [3] You return man to dust and

say, "Return, O children of man!" [4] For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. [5] You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: [6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

[7] For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. [8] You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. [9] For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. [10] The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. [11] Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

[12] So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. [13] Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! [14] Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. [15] Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. [16] Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. [17] Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

**PRAYER:** Lord would you teach us this profound wisdom, instruct us to not simply let these words roll over us today...as we transition to lunch. Help us to gain a heart of wisdom today... that we may rejoice and be glad in you, even in failure and frustration. Amen.

**ROAD MAP**: 1.) Moses' Great God, 2.) Humanity's Great Problem, 3.) God's Great solution, 4.) How do you respond?

## THE GREAT GOD OF MOSES

- 1. One last thing before we get into the actual meat of the Psalm, I just want to point out the way the author describes Moses...he calls him Moses the man of God. It should be the central ambition of every person in this room, to live in such a way that when we come to the end of our lives, the way people remember us is in terms of how much we loved and served God. That MAN was a man of God. That WOMAN was such a woman of God.
  - 1. There is nothing more encouraging than seeing people focused on the primary thing that will give them joy and life in this world. There is nothing more reassuring than seeing people draw close to God in the midst of their struggles. And there is nothing more comforting in death, than to look back on a life well lived for the glory of God.
  - 2. And I have good news for you. Yesterdays failures and frustrations are not strong enough or significant enough to define your future in Christ. If you look back at the last few years and think to yourself...man I'm not focused like I ought to be. Welcome to today in the Kingdom of God. Where you don't need to be great and strong and mighty and wise to become a person of God. You need faith and love for the GREAT AND MIGHTY one and he can renew all things broken in your life.

- 3. God CHOSE the weak things of the world that He might shame the strong. That's taking about you and me! Seek the Lord, and simply come and receive, all the grace and help you need to restore your soul.
- 2. Let's now jump into our Psalm, Moses begins with Lord, KING, RULER. He will call God by His proper covenant name later in the prayer, but He begins by addressing Him as His Lord. Moses prays Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- 3. I hope it's not lost on you, that the homeless Moses who is dwelling in tents as he wanders the desert because He wasn't allowed to actually enter His homeland...is here acknowledging...you know what, LORD you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
  - 1. I'm sure Moses is looking back, all the way to the day when their ancestor Abram left Ur of the Chaldees, and began dwelling in a tent in the midst of the land of Canaan. This family has lived as pilgrims going back to Genesis 12, both in the land and in Egypt, the land was never truly their home, in the sense that they never settled and established permanent structures. They lived as shepherds wandering from place to place.
- 4. But I think it's really significant that the guy who is about to process why is life so hard, why keep going on...begins with an acknowledgment that you know what...I haven't had a home in this world...but Lord you have been our home...mine and my father before me, and his father before Him. You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- 5. That's an amazing thing to say. I look around at my life...I see failure and frustration...but the one thing I cannot ever deny...is that YOU O Lord have been at the center of my families story. Our unique life experiences have revolved around our relationship with you...you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
  - 1. In the midst of my frustrations...why go on? Here is a thought...so that your sons and daughters in generations to come will be able to begin the prayer of frustration like that.
  - 2. I need to move on but one more question I want to pose to all of you. Regardless of what age you are, or whether you have children or not...are you committed to helping the next generation see how God is at the center of your story and the story of His people...in real life?
  - 3. All of us have different life stories. And all of us need to figure out how to do this in our own way. The way I explain this to my kids...is I explain that dad...used to be a bad guy. Dad used to be a wicked rebel against God. But then God in his mercy came and saved Dad. And brought Dad into His church. Mom came from a long line of men and women who feared the Lord. And God brought us together...so that I could begin a family legacy and so that mom can continue a family legacy of living for God. And this is the first story of our family. This is how our family came to be...because God is a Savior, God is a gracious King who is here looking for bad guys to save...like Dad. And so we share the gospel at the park. My point is...my kids exist because of God and His salvation.
  - 4. And I go out of my way to connect those dots for them. Will you go out of your way...to connect those dots to the next generation? Whether you a grandpa, or childless, or a young person. Will you help those behind you...understand their life in light of the faithfulness of God our dwelling place?

- 6. Coming back to verse 2. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Isn't that amazing.
- 7. Before Moses begins his journey into frustration He reminds Himself of two things. First in verse 1, That God has always been there for us. And the second is in verse 2, that God has always been there. Before Moses begins to wrestle with his finitude, he reminds himself that he is reckoning with one who is infinite.
  - 1. And Moses doesn't bring this up as a point of contrast. As we will see at the end of the Psalm, the answer to our finitude is a relationship to that which is eternal, namely to the God who gave birth to the mountains.
- 8. God is not only from everlasting but TO everlasting. And it's not simple that God has always existed it's that from the beginning to the end, He is GOD. He is Lord. He rules and reigns over all. So for Moses....before He begins his descent down into the frustrations of his heart...He anchors Himself in two truths. The first is that God has always been there for me and for my ancestors. And second that God is the ruler over all...always has been and always will be.
  - 1. And that means that my life is not the result of randomness and chaos. I live out my life under the rule and dominion of the God who loves me and who is directing all things according to the counsel of His will.
  - 2. So anchor points for the question why Go on? Because God has been faithful to generation after generation of people who follow Him. And second, because my life is on God's trajectory for His glory...whether I like it or not or enjoy it or not, or can see HOW or not. The God of Moses is a great God. And I can trust Him with my most painful questions and observations about the world. Let's now transition to how Moses conceives of humanity's great problem.

## **HUMANITY'S GREAT PROBLEM**

- 1. And by way of summary, he sees our great problems as death and its consequence of brevity, sin, and toil. What is that reminiscent of? That is the language of Genesis 3 and the curse God laid upon the earth in the garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve fell, God cursed the serpent to a life of perpetual conflict and eventual doom from the seed of the woman. God brought pain to childbearing and toil to work by cursing the ground. He also explained that as a consequence of this fall, their would soon be discord in their marriage.
  - 1. And finally in Genesis 3:19 God says "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
  - 2. Nowhere on earth do you see that truth illustrated more vividly, than when you see a coffin lowered into the ground, and watch the dust of the earth shoveled on top of it until it is buried to await the resurrection of the dead.
- 2. Everything Moses writes, is from a framework of assumptions that everything Genesis 3 says...is true.
- 3. Verse 3 of Psalm 90 says You return man to dust...and say RETURN O children of man. Death, this assumes has come from God. He formed us from dust...and when our time comes...he says come back to dust now. Return. He holds our lives in His hands and He has numbered all of our days.

- 4. Moses notes that from God's perspective time look really different. A thousand years in God's sight is like yesterday. A thousand years in God's sight is like a 3 or a 4 hour night watch. The point is...what feels like a long time to us...doesn't feel the same way to God.
  - 1. We are deeply affected by our own brevity. We look at the world in terms of the timelines of our life. God is not affected by brevity OR our timelines. God sees the end from the beginning and has the ultimate good in view for all of His people.
- 5. But from our perspective what does it seem like? Moses is waiting and watching a whole generation swept away like a flood. They are like a dream. They are there...and then you wake up...and it's gone forever.
  - 1. The generations are like grass...they are new in the morning...in the early stages of life they are renewed and flourish. They are filled with energy and teeming with potential. But in the evening it fades and withers. The years become weary and the body becomes weak and the temptation to become cynical or even hopeless sets in in a new way.
  - 2. Life can fade and whither if it is not connected to the vine who is Christ Jesus.
- 6. But here is the kicker in verse 7. We are brought to an end BY YOUR ANGER. By your WRATH we are dismayed. I know I've said this a lot but I think it's so important to keep reminding ourselves...DEATH IS NOT JUST A PART OF LIFE. Death is meant to remind us that the world is under judgement. The world is under a curse. This life as we experience it was not supposed to be this way and it won't always be this way because of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 7. I notice in verse 7 that the language of the Psalmist shifts from them and they, to we and us. WE are brought to an end by your anger...by wrath WE are dismayed. You have set OUR iniquities verse 8 before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. Why is the world under judgement?
  - 1. Moses moves from thinking about the problem of the curse in general, to now focusing on Himself and Israel. In other words...the problem of the curse isn't just a problem for all those people out there. It's a problem for all mankind...INCLUDING God's people.
  - 2. And for Israel, wrath hasn't come upon them in a general way...they have sinned against God. And not just the big public sins that you read about in the bible. There were also verse 8...secret sins, revealed in the light of God's presence.
- 8. So Humanities great problem is that they live under the curse. But Israel's problem is even deeper than that...they are not only under God's general judgement...they have sinned and are now wandering the desert because of God's specific judgement. Moses is process the world in general...in light of his and the peoples failure specifically.
- 9. When Moses comes under God's anger and discipline He doesn't do what we do. He doesn't start from the perspective that this isn't fair. Why me? He looks at it like...all of humanity is guilty and under judgement...and we your special people, set apart to be a part of the solution...have made ourselves guilty ALSO despite your favor, your salvation, and miracles, and provision, and help.
- 10. Despite offering us everything...we still found a way to sin against you. And as a consequence verse 9...all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Our lives end like a big deep outward breath...and then they are over.

- 11. Moses says in verse 10 that they years of our life are seventy or even by reason of strength eighty. Apparently the average life-span of an early Israelite was not that different than our own day. But what does he note in verse 10...yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
  - 1. There are some things about the world that from age to age, do not change. Moses says we are going to live for a while...and some people by reason of strength will live longer than others...but no matter what you do...no matter how much money you have...no matter where you go...your life will have trouble and toil. That is the sorrow laid upon this present age on account of the curse.
  - 2. I've known people in my life who have gone to extraordinary lengths to escape this reality of life on earth. Who have gone to great lengths to insulate themselves from people and things that don't make them happy. But the problem is that all of us are still broken inside...and no matter how far away we run, or how tall we build the castle around our life...we carry our brokenness with us, and it's not something you can escape. It can only be healed by the love of God.
- 12. So what is humanity's great problem? It is the death, sin and toil that has come into the world because of the serpent and because of the curse. And because of all this...life is short and hard and always ends in death, no matter what we do or how hard we try to avoid it. And Moses closes with one last question. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?
  - 1. I think Moses is saying...who can appreciate how powerful your displeasure of sin is... given the judgement you have laid upon the earth. Who considers your anger according to the fear of you? I think Moses is suggesting that the only way to appreciate the realities in the way He just described them is according to the fear of the Lord.
  - 2. So to ask Moses' question in my own words...Is there anyone who knows you well enough to look around at the brokenness of this world...and appreciate how much you must hate sin? Is there anyone who considers how bad this all is from your perspective?
- 13. And I think the question is rhetorical...with the rhetorical answer being no one. No one fully appreciates this. Death and toil and sin are only a shadow leading to the cross of Christ our Lord.
- 14. So what have we seen so far? We have seen that the God of Moses is very great, for two reasons. First He has always been there for His people regardless of their circumstances... and second, and Second he is the Lord of history. And it was with those two anchor points that we journeyed down into the sorrows of life on earth and the failure of Moses and Israel which brought God's anger and judgement. Can you imagine if that was the end of the story?
- 15. We are all cursed because of our sins...and the hope of the world, Israel, failed in their mission and now they are under judgement too? Let's now close with God's great answer to this problem and some application.

## **GOD'S GREAT ANSWER**

1. Verse 12 begins with the word SO, or THEREFORE...in Hebrew as well as English. You can actually DO something productive with this journey down into sorrow and failure. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

- 2. Help us to embrace our finitude, to learn from the painful consequences of sin for the world...so that our hearts would become wise. That we may GET a heart of wisdom. When you are young a week feels like a long time. AS you become older time feels like it moves faster and faster. In two months I'm going to turn 36. It feels like yesterday I was 24. Where did the time go?
- 3. Time is passing quickly. We have a limited number of times left to pray together. We have a limited number of opportunities to pass on the wisdom we have gained. Time is passing quickly. You will only have so many more opportunities to tell people you love them or what you appreciate about them, or things you've noticed that may be able to help them experience more joy and more of God in this life. I have a finite amount of time left, to tell my sons that I'm proud of them, of the kind of men I hope they will become, and to exhort them to it with clarity and conviction. And that is also true for you.
- 4. When you embrace your finitude...you become wiser. What is most important become more clear. What is most urgent becomes a greater priority and you let the looming reality of the end inform the present.
- 5. We will revisit this at the end but let me just ask you to consider a question...what are you neglecting right now that you will probably find yourself regretting on your death bed? You should number your days...and go act in the way that is most wise.
- 6. Moses continues in verse 13 with a remarkable recognition. It is true that we can learn from the fall and the curse, we can gain wisdom from considering what it means for us and about God. But there is really only one way out of this situation. We are utterly hopeless unless verse 13 happens...RETURN O LORD! The word of verse 3 where God says return to dust, is the same word here where Moses asks God to return to man.
  - 1. Come back to mankind, how long? Have pity on your servants. Moses sees the solution as clearly as he sees the problem. We are under the curse of sin...and the answer is that you would come to us and show us pity.
  - 2. The answer to the problem of the fall and human brevity....is to be reconciled in relationship to the God of all eternity.
- 7. The answer to human life fading in the evening and withering in verse 6, is God coming in verse 4 and satisfying us in the morning with your steadfast love. The answer to us ending our lives with a sigh in verse 9 is God causing us to rejoice and to be glad all our days in verse 14. This is Moses prayer and hope for future generations. That God would return and show pity. That He would return and reconcile His people. That He would return and bring satisfaction, joy and gladness for His people for all their days.
  - 1. And this is precisely what God has done in the coming of the Son of God. Jesus Christ our Lord has come into the world, as an innocent lamb led to slaughter. He unmasked the evil of sin, and through His suffering in our place on the tree, revealed to us the power of God anger, and His wrath to all who fear Him.
  - 2. But it is through that very death, that God began to break the power of the curse. Through the Lord's death and His resurrection, death no longer claims dominion over man. Just as He rose, so we will rise also. Through the Lord's death He has broken the power of sin over our lives. Through Him there is therefore no more condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- 3. Even toil and trouble have been transformed through Him since blessed are the dead in Christ for their good works will follow them. Blessed are we who toil for Christ's sake knowing that our labor is not in vain.
- 4. In Christ Jesus, God has answered Moses' prayer in a way that is greater than he could have possibly imagined.
- 8. In verse 15 Moses continues saying "Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil." Moses doesn't ask this because he thinks it's fair...He asks it knowing that the people don't deserve it but that God is kind and merciful and desires to show compassion.
  - 1. Lord would you at least allow us to have a commensurate amount of joy as we have had sorrow in this world. And God's answer in the New Covenant is no. You cannot have the same amount of joy as you have had sorrow. In the New Covenant in 2 Corinthians 4:16 God says all of your light and momentary affliction is producing for you an ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY. He says considering eternity and all that it comes with it...your worst afflictions on this earth...are light, and momentary. And as a consequence of enduring I will give you something WEIGHTY and ETERNAL.
  - 2. This reward system isn't a 1:1 kind of thing. It's a 1:10 billion kind of thing.
- 9. Verse 16 Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. God answers this prayer for Moses in a small and gracious way. Before Israel enters the land, the Lord leads Moses up on top of a mountain to see the good land that God is going to give the next generation. Moses doesn't get to share in the spoils. But God shows Him a preview of the victory. In this life...he witnessed God's victory from afar....UNTIL. The Lord Jesus came into the world...and he ascended the mount of transfiguration...and before His descent into Jerusalem to bring salvation to the world...he stood there speaking with 2 men... Elijah...and who? Moses.
- 10. In this life Moses got to see a preview of God's victory in this world. In the life beyond death.. Moses was invited to stand face to face with salvation of God in the person of Christ. Your labor...O blessed Moses...was not in vain.
- 11. Moses closes with a final request, let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!
- 12. Moses' request is basically this...be kind to us Lord, and give us the works you have for us and cause them to prosper.
- 13. Be gracious to us Lord and show us what you have called us to do and make us successful in it. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul says that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. In other words, both Psalm 90 and Ephesians 2 suppose that there are good works that God desires for you and you should be very attentive to what they might be and seek to walk in them.
  - 1. How do I gain clarity on what those things might be? I think it's pretty simple actually. You read your bible and try to do what it says, praying for the Spirit's guidance as you do. So when you read love your neighbor, you are supposed to look up and ask how can I love my physical neighbors in this world. Everyone I meet is a potential neighbor as Jesus taught...and if I have my eyes open I will recognize that the world is full of opportunities to show love. And if I seek the Spirit's help, He will aid in me in

- determining what I should say yes to and what I should say no to. Sometimes he helps me directly, sometimes he helps me through the wise counsel of my brothers and sisters around me.
- 14. But if you pray this prayer of Moses, establish the work of my hands upon me...show me/ give me things to do for your glory...God will answer. You are His and He delights to use His children. But here is this section in summary. Life seems short, and hard, and painful. But Christ Jesus has come into the world to transform all of that. The answer to human brevity is to be joined into communion with the God of eternity who gives us eternal life through faith in Christ.
  - 1. And in Christ, God has begun to answer all the problems that Moses noticed for life on earth. And therefore, we don't just GO ON...we can go forward with joy knowing that our labors are not in vain.
  - 2. Life seems short, but with God it's forever.

Let me close with some final application question: given the FACT that your life is finite and will soon come to an end...what do you need to change about your life in the present. What are you focused on...that isn't going to matter in a 1000 years? What are you looking to in this world...that will eventually be swept away by God's anger? What are you allowing to burden and vex you...that is soon going to fade like grass in the evening, when God comes to renew you with wings like an eagle?

And if you don't know Christ this morning...but you can see and appreciate Moses' understanding of the problems in this world...death...toil...brevity and so on? Why would you not come and let your life be transformed by God's gospel which seeks to definitively deal with these problems, even beginning in this life. This freedom from despair and hopelessness is for all mankind...come and experience freedom and rest for your souls.

Finally, I would exhort you to pray, for God to establish the work of your hands upon you. To show you what He wants you to be taken up with. To be focused on. To be working towards. Living in His will is life and peace and joy. And I want that for all of you. Life seems short, but with God it's forever, so live with all your heart. Let's pray.

**COMMUNION**: Here we are invited to bring our finitude to the infinite. This bread and this wine are a sign that Christ has conquered on the cross and reconciled us to God. And it is also a sign that we now live in fellowship with Him. Whatever burden you are bearing in your soul this morning...whatever sins or anxieties or fears or frustrations...that come from living as a finite being in a world under the curse...come and drink of the eternal. Come and be reminded of whom you serve, that you are no longer under the power of sin and death...and through Him you have eternal life and comfort.