

PSALMS

songs for all of life

PSALMS: A SONG FOR THE LIMITED

August 6, 2023

Ken Flower

Scripture Reference: Psalm 90

Good morning, Doxa. Today we'll be reading Psalm 90.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; They are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. 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. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants? Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. 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! This is the word of the Lord. You may be seated.

All right. Hey, good morning, Doxa. If you're brand new, my name's Tim Patton. I'm one of our elders and serve on the staff team. And I have the privilege of introducing or presenting to you our preacher today, which is Ken Flower. Let's go. So very glad to have him. And if you are new at Doxa, you might not know this, but Ken and Doxa were together doing ministry in meaningful ways for a long time. And Ken was instrumental in helping our church get really doing some discipleship in the area of spiritual formation, community life, DNA. We love Ken, Beth and

family and we love Meadowbrook. He is the lead pastor of Meadowbrook Church, which is literally right across the street. And God has orchestrated a partnership in the gospel between us and the Flower family in a really special way. And so I know that you're gonna be blessed by God's work through him today.

But we just wanted to take a minute and acknowledge that we love you a lot and we're really excited to hear from you. You did a great job this morning and I know the Lord will do that again through you. So I'd like to pray just briefly for Ken and for our time and then we'll get going.

Jesus, thank you for, for Ken, thank you for the gift that he is to the church. Thank you for the big C church work that you're doing in and through Doxa and Meadowbrook and others in this area, in this summer series. And Lord, we want to, we wanna honor you and everything that we're doing, we wanna make much of you. We thank you for your word. We pray that you would use our brother Ken now as your servant to bring your word with truth, with hope, with light, with Jesus, with the gospel and all of the good things that we know that you have in store for us today. We love you Jesus. We thank you for Ken and pray for this time to be fruitful for your kingdom. In your name, amen.

Amen. Thanks Tim. Love how Tim said that Ken and Doxa were together for a little while, like we were dating <laugh>. Tim's not even, he just walked away. We did. We dated, Doxa and I dated I guess for three years. We got to be a part of this church family, my wife Beth, we have three kids. So grateful for those years. It was 2019 through the beginning of 2022. Some normal years, nothing happened big during those years. Um, and this is actually my first time to get to worship with you as a church in this new space. Got to see the space being, you know, from basketball court right here to what it is today. And got to see how God provided for this church through some pretty amazing things and through you as a church. And so super grateful that God has put Doxa right here, and super grateful that we get to be right across the street literally and get to be neighbors and partner together in the gospel as a big C church here on the eastside. Thankful and honored that I get to open God's word with you this morning. Open your Bible to Psalm 90, if you've not already turned there. This is where we are gonna spend our whole morning together in Psalm chapter 90.

Four years ago, I was faced with the realization, right before we moved here to the Pacific Northwest -- we were still in Columbus, Ohio, which is where we were for about nine years. And I was faced with this realization that the, it felt like the last six, seven years of my life had been a waste. We had gone to Columbus to plant a church with close friends, and then I ended up needing to become bi-vocational, and I worked as a marketing director for a nonprofit for seven years and then begin to realize like God was calling me back into full-time vocational ministry. And I looked at my path, this kind of meandering, wandering path and thought like, God, why? Like it feels like these last six years, seven years were a waste.

I know there's like spiritual things I could say and say God was sovereign and he was doing things in us and in people around us do that. And that's all true. Absolutely. But it didn't negate the fact that I still felt like this wasn't the path I had envisioned in my twenties, my thirties, when I was thinking about where my life and our life as a family was going to go. This isn't what

I had planned. This isn't what I thought would happen. And in some ways there were times that were wasted. If I was honest. There were moments that felt like they were wasted.

My daughter's about to enter her sophomore year of high school. She's our oldest. And to me as a dad, when you, when you're, when your oldest as your girl, as a daughter, there's just something, man, like, everything's sad. Everything's like, this is our last freshman year of high school and everything's just, you know, just a moment. I'm taking a lot of moments. I'm like, only we still got time guys, she's not gone yet. But I'm counting down the days and months till she's heading off to college and realizing there's only so much time left. And I'm looking back on the years, the 14 going on 15 years we've gotten to experience with her and realizing, man, there's so many wasted moments there. I'm feeling sadness over that. I wish I could go back and recapture that year, recapture those moments, be more present, provide in a way I, I wasn't able to provide at that time. And yet I can't. Time has gone by and I can't change any of the past. And all that I have with me is this feeling of wasted moments.

Man, Ken, you're a downer. <laugh> I'm not here to bring you down. I do have good news for you this morning. But if we're honest, all of us feel this in different ways. All of us feel it. We feel the fragility, the futility, the transient of life. All of us do. And yet we also want so much more. We want for our relationships to go forever. We desire that. We wanna be able to be with our kids forever. Hopefully not them in our basement, but we do want them to be with us forever. We want for our work and our lives to have meaning and purpose and to matter, to not just be a waste. There's this desire in us for eternity, and yet we're faced with the very real futility of our lives. And how do we live within this tension? This is the tension I want to put before us this morning, is that we are limited people who are made for eternity.

Every single one of us, we are limited people who are made for eternity. And today's psalm, Psalm 90, is written for people like us. Moses, who wrote this psalm, we'll talk more about him in a little bit. Moses knew exactly what we're experiencing and feeling and he gives us, first of all, a clear picture of the tension we all live within. But he also guides us towards how to live and actually thrive within that tension.

But the reality is we all long for eternity. It's not just Christians that long for eternity. Our world longs for eternity. In 2014, a documentary came out entitled *The Immortalists*, and tells the story of two scientists, and this is true story, it's documentary -- if you didn't, that's a true story, I think -- that are searching for a viable answer for eternal youth. They wanna find a way to use genetics, science, technology, diet, whatever they can use to make our bodies last forever.

And this isn't just these two crazy mad scientists out in the middle of nowhere experimenting in their in their garage. There's billions of dollars from venture capitalists behind their efforts. One of these scientists, Aubrey de Grey, great mad scientist name Aubrey de Grey, founded the SENS Research Foundation in Mountain View, California. Their goal is to stop the process of aging and reverse the decline of ourselves. In a profile in the *New Statesman*, Peter Ball writes about this movement and about de Grey, and here's what he says: "De Grey regards old age as a disease like any other: It is scandalous, he says, that it kills 90% of all human beings..." I don't know what the other 10% are "...and yet we're doing so little about it. De Grey calls his quest a 'crusade to defeat aging', which he regards as 'the single most urgent imperative for humanity'. Death, he says, is quite simply repugnant."

And it's not just de Gray. Ball also highlights the work of Ray Kurzweil, who's an American computer scientist, author, inventor. He's currently the principal researcher in AI Visionary at Google, if Wikipedia is up to date, and Kurzweil talks about this future moment called the Singularity. This is getting really weird. The Singularity is a moment when humans and technology will merge to achieve immortality. And here's what Ball writes of Kurzweil's vision: "Kurzweil's concept of the Singularity provides the immortalists with their equivalent of the resurrection. A moment in the foreseeable future when computer technology and artificial intelligence, biotechnology and nanotechnology will all converge to make it possible for us to download our minds and attain virtual immortality." This isn't science fiction. And this was written in 2014, 9 years ago.

Billionaires, scientists are putting everything behind searching for immortality. But it's not just them. We all push back against our mortality. All of us do in different ways. Anti-aging cream. Just for Men hair dye. Is that, is that still a thing? I keep getting ads in my uh, social media for products that will help me regrow my hair <laugh>. And I've literally never searched for how to regrow my hair. Somehow my phone knows that I'm balding, which is true and knows I need these products. And I'm starting to show interest like this is actually, maybe I should regrow my hair. Maybe this could help me. And we all find ways to do this. Science, diet and exercise, a focus on the legacy we're leaving. Always that we push back against our mortality. And these are not bad things. Don't get me wrong. These aren't wrong. We are called to be stewards of our body, to take care of the body that God has given us to help it last and thrive on this earth. These aren't wrong, but the point I'm trying to make is that we really, really, really want to live forever. It's like it is wired into us, a desire for eternity. Everyone wants it.

But here's where the tension exists. We long for eternity and yet we live very limited, transient lives. In 1860, the average lifespan for an American was 40 years old. In 1950, the average lifespan improved to 68 years old. Today the average lifespan is 79 years old and it's greater. It's better for women than for men. Sorry guys. So it might look like we're heading in the right direction. Right, from 40 years old to 79. And medicine and technology especially for wealthier nations have allowed us to extend our lives and add even decades to them. But 79 years is not quite immortality if we're honest.

There's a Greek myth about a man named Tithonus who was the lover of a goddess named Eos. And Eos loved Tithonus so much that she went to Zeus and asked Zeus to give Tithonus eternal life. What she failed to ask for was eternal youth. Tithonus lived forever but continued to age and by the end is left begging for his life as he shrivels into a cicada. Which is gross.

Derek Thompson in his article, Can Science Cure Aging Interviews Harvard Medical Professor David Sinclair and says, modern science has a moderate Tithonus problem: Quality-of-life extension has failed to keep up with life extension. Sinclair says, "we've been really successful at keeping the heart pumping with pacemakers and cardiovascular drugs, but we have been really pathetic in protecting the brain from aging."

Quantity of life has improved, but quality of life has not kept up. We're extending our lives but our lives are not happier than they were in 1860. Arguably they're less happy. Moses understood this reality when he says in Psalm 90, our days pass away under your wrath. We

bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are 70 maybe by reason of strength, 80, yet their span is but toil and trouble; and they're soon gone and we fly away.

Friends, we long for eternity. It's innate desire within us. We desire immortality. The world wants it. We're doing everything, leveraging everything we can to pursue it. And the reality is that we live very limited transient lives. This is the tension. And how do we live within this tension?

Psalm 90, as I said earlier, is written by Moses. It's a wisdom psalm. Wisdom Psalms are meant to help us know what reality is and then how to live in light of reality. And Moses writes this psalm as a man who understands this tension. Now, if you haven't heard the story of Moses before, he's the guy that God used when Israel was enslaved to the nation of Egypt, to bring them out of Egypt to a land that God had promised them. It was a beautiful, amazing land where they would be at rest. But first they had to go through a wilderness. And Moses did. He led Israel out of the wilderness. God provided in amazing ways. And yet as they enter into the wilderness, Israel just keeps whining and complaining about everything, just God, why did you bring us out here just to die? We'd be better off in Egypt and and Moses is just sick of the whining and complaining. Parents, perhaps you can understand.

And so Moses in a fit of his own anger and and just he's done right? It's like we're not talk watching the TV anymore, game's over. Everyone go to bed. He strikes the rock, disobeys God. And as a result, God tells Moses, you are not gonna be able to enter The Promised Land.

So Moses has been looking forward to this land forever, this place of rest and yet now he is left to die in the wilderness and Moses gets to go up and on a mountaintop and he gets to see The Promised Land. This beautiful place, this place that his heart longed for this place of rest, knowing that he would never get to enter it. And his life would end in the wilderness.

And he writes the psalm because he understands what our lives are like to long for something. Something eternal, to long for something better, to long for our lives to matter, to long for relationships not to end, to long for something better and yet to never get to experience it or taste it in this life. And be faced with the futility and the limits that we all experience.

Psalm 90 gives us both a real picture of this tension we all live in, and it also gives us a guide for how to live within it. That's why we want to enter into Psalm 90. So join with me Psalm 90 verse one. The first thing that we see is we enter into the Psalms that we were all made for eternity. Wisdom Psalms start with reality, that's where Moses starts. We were made for eternity. We were made for eternity. Verse one and two, Moses says, Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Moses says, the reality is that God is an eternal God, has no beginning and no end. We can't wrap our minds around that. But that's what's true, that God is eternal and God created us. He says, every generation has found their dwelling place in you. In other words, Moses is saying, we were created to make our home, to find our home in the eternal God. We were created to find our rest, our life, our home with the eternal God. It's what we were made for. It's what our hearts long for. We were made for eternity. As the author of Ecclesiastes says, he has put eternity into man's heart. And yet Moses also knows this is far from what our lived experiences.

Our lives instead are marked by limits. We are a limited people. He goes on in verse three, you return man to dust and you say, return o children of man. For as a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it's past or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream like grass that's renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Even though they were made for eternity, Moses says, our experience is limited and futile. No matter how many breakthroughs we have in medicine and technology, none of it will extend our lives to eternity. Our cells will continue to decline and our bodies will return as Moses says, to the dust. And even a thousand years. I mean imagine if we could find a way to make our bodies live for a thousand years. That'd be incredible. No one's lived that long that I'm aware of. That'd be amazing. Maybe some of you're like, that sounds terrible to me. Get me, get me off this earth. A thousand years. We could do it. Maybe maybe medicine, technology, maybe we could make that happen. But even if that happened, Moses says a thousand years compared to eternity is like a day. It's like a watch in the night, which is four hours. It's nothing compared with eternity.

Our lives, he says, are like a dream. You ever wake up and you've had some really weird dream and you're trying to remember it, 'cause you just really want to tell someone before you forget it 'cause it's so weird. And before you can find anyone to tell, it's just, it's like falling through your fingers like sand. You just lose it and you can't remember any of it. That's what our lives are like.

Or the grass. I mean look around you. This is a tangible picture. The grass is all just dead and dry unless you can water it. And that's what our lives are like. He says they are vibrant and awake in the morning and they wither and die in the evening.

If this, if, if we were made for eternity, if this is what we're made for, then why is this our experience? And Moses goes on in verse seven to answer that question, why are our our lives marked by this kind of futility? He says, we were brought to an end by your anger. By your wrath we're dismayed. You've set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days pass away under your wrath. We bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are 70 maybe by reason of strength 80; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they're soon gone and we fly away.

At the core, the reason our lives are marked, Moses says by this futility and transience, the reason we are limited people at the core like this is because of Genesis chapter three. Because Adam and Eve in the beginning decided to stop trusting God's way for them. They were designed and created to live forever, to live in God's presence, to make their home with him forever. And yet they stopped trusting his way. And so Eden ended and they went east of the garden away from God's presence. And ever since then, every single generation including us, have done the same thing. We followed the same path away from his presence, and our years and our lives therefore are marked by the same futility.

The rebellion we have gone through places us under God's wrath. That might make God sound like a moody parent. That's far from the case. God loves his people, he loves his creation and the reality that they have chosen to walk away from him. And sin has like a cancer infected

them, that angers him and he is against that, set on destroying that sin. Our lives then are nothing but toil and trouble because of our rebellion and God's righteous anger against it. Now I don't mean that every time you experience some kind of futility in your life, it's directly because of some sin you committed earlier in the day and God's getting you back. That's not what I'm saying. What I am saying is that we experience as a whole futility and transience in our lives because of our broken world and the sin that curses it, and we play a part in that.

We were made for eternity and yet our experience is futility and limits. How do we live in that tension? I don't think I need to belabor the point anymore. We all know this. We all feel, we intuitively experience this. So how do we live in this tension?

Well, there's a couple ways that the world copes with this tension. One is that we pursue eternity without embracing our limits. And that just leads to denial. This says we just transcend our limits. Reject your limits. You're not limited. You can do whatever you want. And eventually what happens is reality hits us really, really hard. Our bodies fail, our limits catch up with us, and it doesn't work well.

Another way that we tend to then cope with this tension that we live in and deal with, the tension is we embrace our limits but we have no hope of eternity. And that either leads to defeat or to escape. Defeat says, well there's no point anyway. It's all gonna end anyway. Why even try? We just give up. But for many of us, and this is really I think, more common, it's escape. It's just seize the day, embrace the moment, make the most of today. And this sounds really great. This sounds, I mean, they make all sorts of movies about this, right? I'm gonna leave the corporate world, buy my camper van and go live in the desert and just live my best life now, I mean, how many of you have thought about midlife doing something like that? If we're honest, I'm gonna go to Lopez Island, I'm gonna raise goats. And every Saturday I'm gonna sell my goat cheese and I'm gonna be happy and I'm gonna, I'm gonna live my life while I have it. Life is short. Just enjoy it.

Even though that sounds beautiful, and sure it's better than defeat. Like yeah, I'll take goat cheese on Lopez Island over just giving up. But at the end of the day, friends, it doesn't hold up when we're faced with a finality of death. Doesn't hold up.

Neither of these coping mechanisms hold up and help us actually deal with the tension that we all experience. That we were made for eternity. And yet our lives are limited and futile. So how do we live within this tension? How do we live as a people that wanna live in light of reality? How do we live within this tension? Well, Moses in verses 11 through 17, I think gives us a guide for how to actually live within this tension. A guide that helps us be honest, honest about our lives and honest about our limits, yet gives us hope.

So let's look at this guide, verse 11. Moses first invites us to embrace your limits. Embrace your limits. Verse 11, he says, who considers the power of your anger and your wrath according to the fear of you? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. He turns to God and says, God, just teach me to number my days. Help me embrace my limits.

You won't be able to do everything you want to do. You will miss opportunities. Some of us live in constant fomo. We're just always afraid we're missing opportunities. You will miss opportunities. Your body will feel the effects of this broken world. You won't be able to see

everything you wanna see or travel to every place you want to go. You are limited. You're limited.

And because we live east of Eden, our lives are also marked by futility. Work will sometimes be pointless. If we're honest. You'll work months, maybe even years on projects that then at the end of the day, do not matter. Man, Ken, you are a downer, <laugh>. But how many people have felt that or experienced that? Yeah. You'll work hard at something that at the end of the day you'll wonder, did that even matter? Weeds will grow back in your garden. It's happening right now. You're gonna have to go home and weed 'em again 'cause we live east of Eden.

And if we're honest about this reality and we accept our limits, then we can approach life with wisdom. If we deny them or we seek to escape them, then we'll live in a delusion that will soon come crashing down. We first have to embrace our limits. Yet here's the reality. Embracing our limits doesn't lead us to just give up. It doesn't leave us to resign ourselves to futility. When we actually gain wisdom, we embrace our limits like Moses is inviting us to do, and then we're given wisdom from God to see our life as short and we have limits. That wisdom leads us towards crying out to God to give us redemption. And that's where Moses goes next. In verse 13 and 15, Moses invites us to look to your loving father to satisfy your eternal hunger.

Verse 13, he says, return, O Lord! How long? Moses is here crying out, Return! Would you come and make things right? This isn't how it was meant to be. Would you return? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you've afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. You see we all have this desire within us for eternity and Moses is telling us that it is only God who can satisfy that desire. Only God himself, the one who made us to find our home in him. The one who we were made to be with forever. Only he can satisfy that longing within us. And so if we search for satisfying that longing through career building, through wealth building, through family building, through legacy building, through whatever, none of that will work or last or satisfy. Only God can.

The desire you have and I have within us for eternity is a desire that only the creator of the universe can satisfy, 'cause you were made to make your home in him. And so when we embrace our limits, we recognize that we are limited people, the next thing we then do is we look to God to satisfy that desire, that longing within us. We cry out to him, Lord, how long? Will you satisfy me with your steadfast love? There's a longing I have that nothing else can satisfy, God. You can satisfy -- will you do that?

And practically, tangibly this means friends that that you need to wake up and slow down and sit and listen and be with your Father and ask him to pour out his love on you, and don't frantically jump into your day trying to satisfy that desire for eternity that's within you through all the other ways we seek to do it. But look to your Creator, to your Father, who alone can satisfy.

You slow down. You listen to him. God, I have a longing. I have a longing for something more within me. I desire so much more and only you can satisfy. Will you do that? Will you pour out your love? Will you satisfy me with your love? Will you quench my thirst this morning?

And here's the beauty, when we embrace our limits and we look to God and his love to satisfy us day by day, then we can have real tangible hope for eternity. This is where Moses moves us at the end. He starts off acknowledging that we were made for eternity. We were created to find our home in God. But then he helps us see that we live futile, limited lives because of our sin and God's anger against us. But then he turns towards the end, towards a hope that God will establish the work of our hands forever.

Verses 16 and 17 says, let your work be shown to your servants and your glorious power to their children. This is generational. 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!

This is the, these are the words of a man who is firmly believing that he will live forever. That his life does matter. That his work is not in vain. He's hoping for eternity. Not delusionally, hoping. Not ignoring his limits and hoping. Knowing his limits satisfied by God's love. He now hopes for eternity.

And here's the magic in this. It's not magic, it's just how God designed things to work. But here's the beauty, when you actually can do this. You're honest about your limits. You look to God to satisfy that longing you have for eternity and then you hope for eternity, and you know that your, that your life will matter, that your work is not in vain -- when you believe that -- it actually frees you to live your limited life today in a way that is just at rest.

You see, if there is no eternity, if there's no hope of forever, if, if this is it, then every wasted moment's a tragedy 'cause you can't get it back. If this is it, then you better cram everything you possibly can into this life 'cause this is all you got. But friends, if we were made for eternity and God is all about satisfying that desire and one day he will do that, if that is real, if that's true, then you can slow down and you can rest. You don't have to cram everything into this life. You can just chill out and relax knowing that God loves you. You don't have to force anything. That there are wasted moments. There's many of them, but you have an eternity ahead of you. It's okay if you don't visit every national park. If this is real.

I love how John Steinbeck illustrates this in his book, the Winner Of Our Discontent. It tells a story of a man named Ethan, who's wrestling with this exact tension. Ethan feels the futility of his life. He's halfway through life and he's wondering, this isn't what I expected. This isn't what I thought life would be. And he's wondering what to do with that. And yet he looks at his wife, Mary, who just seems content and able to rest and able to enjoy life.

Steinbeck writes -- this is Ethan watching Mary sleep, which is a little weird if we're, if we're picturing that, but he's watching his wife sleep. And here's what he says, "She loves to sleep and sleep welcomes her. I wish it were so with me. I fight off sleep, and at the same time crave it. I have thought the difference might be that my Mary knows that she will live forever, that she will step from the living into another life as easily as she slips from sleep to wakefulness. She knows this with her whole body so completely that she does not think of it any more than she thinks to breathe. Thus, she has time to sleep, time to rest, time to cease to exist for a little."

Friends when we have hope of eternity, that our life will matter, that everything is not in vain, that God will establish the work of our hands. When that's our hope, and we can be honest

about our limited, futile lives. But yet, when that is our hope, it frees us to just live and be present and enjoy what God's given us. This is how we deal with the tension.

Now is this all a delusional dream? I mean, how do we know? Sounds great, but is this just Ken helping everyone feel better about their futile lives so they can go live another week? How do we know? I mean, friends really, how do you know? How do you know that this is true? How do you know that your labor's not in vain? How do you know that you were made for eternity and one day you'll inherit that. How do you know?

Well, if you're questioning, that's a great question to ask. And if you sometimes feel doubt about that question, that's okay. I do too. But there is a way to know, and the way we know is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus has risen again. He has secured for his people a resurrection for our future that is guaranteed. There is no doubt. If Jesus rose, we will one day as well. That's Paul's whole point in first Corinthians 15. Because Jesus rose, this is sure, eternal life is sure, immortality is sure, it's guaranteed for all of us one day because of the resurrection. Paul writes in first Corinthians 15, Behold I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep but we shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable body, marked by limits and futility, and weakness, with my cells declining and aging, this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. And when the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where's your victory? Death, where's your sting? There is none. The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And here's where this changes everything in the present. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and movable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Friends, if this is true, if this is true, it changes everything. You will live forever. You are not a mere mortal. You are created for something greater. Because of our sin, we experience futility and limits. But one day we will inherit imperishable bodies, we will inherit immortality, it's as guaranteed as the resurrection of Jesus.

That's our hope. And it allows us to live in this tension today knowing that our labor and our work and our lives are not in vain. Amen? Lemme pray for us.

Father, thank you for this good news, this amazing news that we have that even though our lives are limited and we do experience futility and there are wasted moments and we do sometimes wonder what we're doing and why we're doing it, Lord, thank you for the good news that we have eternal life because of Jesus securing it for us. Make that tangible to us. Root it in our hearts and our minds. Help us be grounded in this reality that our lives are not, are not temporary. We were designed for something greater and one day it's guaranteed. Lord, give us hope for anyone here that feels hopeless. For anyone here, that's just escaping, that's just living in a delusion. That's just trying to manage this Lord. Help them to see that there's a better way and it's through Jesus. We ask all this in his name. Amen.

