

The Brevity of Life

I. Our pilgrimage on this earth is short.

1. Our life on this earth is so short it is called a *vapour* (**Jam 4:14**).
2. Vapour - 1. Without article: Matter in the form of a steamy or imperceptible exhalation; *esp.* the form into which liquids are naturally converted by the action of a sufficient degree of heat.
3. It's wind (**Psa 78:39**).
4. It's short (**Job 14:1; Psa 89:47**).
5. All flesh soon withers like the grass and fades like the flower (**Isa 40:6-8**).
6. It's soon cut off and we fly away (**Psa 90:10**).
7. Therefore we ought to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom (**Psa 90:12 c/w Eph 5:16**).
8. This is why it is so important to seek our Creator in the days of our youth (**Ecc 12:1; Lam 3:26-27; Pro 8:17**).
 - A. This is done by taking heed unto God's law (**Psa 119:9**).
 - B. Parents, make sure you teach your children the holy scriptures so that they can be as Timothy who knew them from a child (**2Ti 3:15**).
9. If you didn't find God until you were old, then be wise in thy latter end (**Pro 19:20**).
 - A. Serve God in your old age and show His strength unto this generation (**Psa 71:9, 15-18**).
 - B. Don't leave this world until you impart the truth to the next generation.
 - C. Never stop bringing forth fruit, even in old age (**Psa 92:13-14**).
 - D. God will be with us in old age (**Isa 46:4**).
10. If you want to prolong your life, fear God and keep His commandments (**Pro 3:1-2; Pro 3:7-8; Pro 4:10; Pro 9:10-11; Pro 10:27**).
11. We should all strive to be able to say as Paul did at the end of his life: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (**2Ti 4:7-8**).

II. When this short life is over, the death of loved ones causes sorrow.

1. Sorrowing for lost loved ones is as old as humanity (**Ecc 12:5**).
2. There is nothing wrong with grieving over the loss of people we love; even devout men do it (**Act 8:2**).
3. Lamentation - The action of lamenting; the passionate or demonstrative expression of grief; mourning; in weakened sense, regret.
4. We often blame God when loved ones die (**Joh 11:21; Joh 11:32**).
 - A. Rather than rebuking us in those times of weakness, Jesus weeps with us (**Joh 11:32-36; Rom 12:15**).
 - B. He is a great high priest who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, and we can therefore come to Him for grace and help in time of need (**Heb 4:15-16**).
 - C. Rather than rebuke, He will give us assurance that that our loved ones who belong to Him will rise again (**Joh 11:23-27**).
 - D. God comforts those who are cast down (**2Co 1:3-4; 2Co 7:6**).
 - E. Cast your cares upon Him when you are sorrowing (**1Pe 5:7**).

- F. God is with us when we go through hardships (**Isa 41:10; Isa 43:2**).
- 5. When our loved ones in Christ die, we should therefore not sorrow *as others which have no hope* (**1Th 4:13-18**).
- 6. Leaving loved ones causes sorrow (**Act 20:36-38**).
 - A. Contrarily, seeing loved ones comforts us when we are cast down (**2Co 7:6; 2Ti 1:4**).
 - B. This is our hope, whether here on the earth, or someday in heaven.

III. Sorrow and mourning can be good.

- 1. Blessed are they who mourn (**Mat 5:4**).
- 2. Good sorrow makes the heart better (**Ecc 7:3**).
- 3. Contrary to the opinion of most, sorrow is better than laughter.
- 4. It's better to go to the house of mourning than house of feasting (**Ecc 7:1-2**).
- 5. It's better go to a funeral than a party.
- 6. The wise will be in the house of mourning, while the fool will be in the house of mirth (*Pleasurable feeling, enjoyment, gratification; joy, happiness.*) (**Ecc 7:4**)
 - A. There is a time to mourn and weep (**Ecc 3:4**).
 - B. Don't be afraid to mourn at a funeral -- that's what it's for.
 - C. Mourning is necessary to get over the death of a loved one.
 - D. Avoiding mourning will only prolong it.

IV. Sorrow will not last forever.

- 1. Even in this life, it's only temporary (**Psa 30:5**).
- 2. After the time to mourn and weep, there is a time to laugh and dance (**Ecc 3:4**).
- 3. Don't feel guilty for laughing and being joyful after your time of mourning is over.
- 4. One day we will be forever free from sorrow altogether (**Rev 21:4**).