

Sermon Notes

Joyful Respite in Life-Altering Crisis

Psalm 90 (pew Bible pgs. 496-497)

Job, a man well acquainted with grief, once said, “Man who is born of a woman is few of days, and FULL of trouble.” Many of us here this morning understand Job’s sentiment with the agony brought upon mankind in a broken world plagued by sin. The existence of suffering in our world causes many to doubt the existence of God leading them to pursue security, hope, and satisfaction elsewhere. The Rolling Stones made famous the song “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction” relating to the experience of the masses as they seek to discover satisfaction in materialism, fortune, and relationships that leave them wanting.

Indicative of the world’s emptiness influencing the church is the lack of joy seen in the average Christian life. Many a brother and sister in Christ seek for respite from the agonies of life in worldly pursuits and pleasures. The treasure of our hearts, and thus the reality of our faith is revealed by our passions. Our passions then are revealed by where we invest our time, money, and resources.

Psalm 90 provides the people of God with a reminder of how God Himself is our satisfaction. Moses, experiencing the agony of approximately 100 deaths a day in the Wilderness, pens this theologically rich Psalm reminding himself and the nation of Israel of the true source of their joy. Internalizing the truths of this Psalm will result in our experiencing security, hope, and satisfaction during both the triumphs and tribulations of life.

God Himself is our Refuge (90:1-6)

God Himself is our Redeemer (90:7-12)

God Himself is our Satisfaction (90:14-17)

Questions for the New Year

Approaching the beginning of a new year always seems to heighten our awareness for the need for self-assessment. On the one hand, we are optimistic as we look to a fresh start. On the other, we are prone to realize changes that need to take place in our lives by looking backward in order to pursue the potential that optimistic outlook paints for us. We are all well acquainted with the idea of resolution-making, and especially the failure it has yielded! But what about spiritually? How should we appropriately reflect on our journey over the last 12 months? How should we think through new commitments for the next 12? Instead of sermon reflection this week, here instead is a short guide to help you answer these questions. Whether you simply consider them in your own heart or discuss them with family or a small group, take some time to think and pray through these questions as we prepare to flip the calendar to 2023.

(Some of these questions come from Dr. Don Whitney)

Relationship with God

What is one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

What is one area of theology that you might dig into in order to grow in your knowledge of God?

How will you plan to consistently abide in God's presence during this upcoming year?

Discipleship

In what spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and how?

What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

Who will you walk consistently with for the purpose of pressing each other more deeply into Christ?

In what way(s) do you plan to grow in knowledge through reading/studying this year?

Personal

What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?

What is the single most important thing you could do to help your family flourish this year?

In what relationships will you consistently invest by encouraging and blessing in a generous way?

For whose salvation will you most fervently pray, and how will you consistently point them to Jesus?

Covenant Church Membership

What are a few ways that you will consistently pray for the life and mission of our church?

How will you *personally* pursue the above things with your time, ability, finances, etc.?

How is God leading you to consistently give financially during 2023?

Are there any areas of church life in which you need to make a new or a renewed commitment?

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

(336) 599-1982
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
www.westwoodfamilyorg
Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
Mailing Address:
970 Leasburg Road
Roxboro NC 27573-5470

Upcoming Events

JANUARY
2 Church Office Closed
9 AHG/TLU @ 6:30 p.m.
23 GriefShare begins @ 6:30 p.m.