

My Dear Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 90:11 - "Who knows the power of Your anger? / For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath."

Many years ago here at First Baptist in the late winter/ early spring of the mid 1980's, we had a speaker named Dr. John McCormick. He was a fantastic Bible teacher. I'll never forget many of this messages and things that he taught. One of the things that he challenged us with is to do a study of all the questions in the Bible. When I was a senior in college, I finally got around to that and have a journal of those questions. I'm not saying that you need to do such a task; it is certainly not for the faint of heart! One of the things that faced me was when God asks a question. Why does God ask questions? Obviously, He's not lacking in the information. And then there are people who ask questions of God. Additionally, there are people who ask questions just in general to whoever will listen just simply to get people thinking.

Here in this verse, Moses (who wrote this psalm) breaks out into a question of God, but Moses wants everyone to hear the question, because it deals with people understanding or grasping something. "Who knows [a close personal relationship knowledge] the power of Your anger?" Moses is trying to say in His praise of God, that God's anger & wrath against sin is so incredibly great and powerful, that no one can fully grasp how much God is angry at sin.

Years ago, Pastor Alvis challenged us as teenagers in our prayer time to tell God, "God, help me to see sin as You do, and help me to be as angry at my own sin as You are, God." Certainly, if we were as angry at our own sin as what God is at sin, we would begin to make some forward progress in our Christian lives pretty quickly! All said, it's better just to deal with the facts of God's anger against sin. God's anger against sin shows up in our death (Romans 6:23) with life being so short.

There are all kinds of signs of God's displeasure, but we never really take it to heart until God brings it home to us. We hardly ever live in the reality that we are going to die because many of us actually live for the moment. May the Lord help us!

But our response should not stop there. We need to learn also what it's like to fear God and be in a right relationship with Him, for that's what the second line of the verse says. It's a comparison of our taking God seriously versus His wrath: the more one takes Him seriously, the less wrath from God on their life. The less one takes God seriously, the more wrath from God on their life.

Life is a sinful thing, a serious thing, and tomorrow we'll see that it is a short thing. May we take God seriously and understand that He is serious about our sin. He proved how serious He is about it by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for our sin.

Praying for you today, my loved ones.