Do you ever feel like you wasted a day?  
Have you ever been busy but when the day was done you felt like nothing significant was accomplished?  
Do you feel like you have years to live so in comparison, what’s the big deal about today?

Ron Gaddy, pastor of Peach Valley BC and my brother-in-law, shared some devotional thoughts this past Wednesday with our group of pastors that meet for breakfast. He challenged us with this question: **Do you spend time or invest time each day?**

We understand the difference in spending a dollar or investing it. I spend a dollar and it is gone. I invest a dollar and I expect and hope to see it multiply and have a greater return to me.

So, I can spend time each day and it is simply gone or I can invest my time in someone or something that I pray will make a difference and bring about a greater result. It made us think about how we use our time.

Good Bible teachers should invest their time teaching students rather than spend time teaching. There is a difference.

I told you last week that I want to make adjustments to my discipline of studying and so forth. Then, I pulled out Ilion Jones book, *The Pastor: The Man And His Ministry*. I have used it before and one chapter is always a great challenge and help to me. It is the chapter titled, “The Pastor’s Stewardship Of Time And Money.” Listen to one quote: *“Psychiatrists tell us that normal people are those who learn to devote their energies to the main problems of life. On the other hand, neurotic people are those who dissipate their energies in emotional conflicts that accomplish nothing. People who get things done without emotional exhaustion usually have work schedules.”* (p. 99)

We have heard the term “Time well spent.” **What is time well spent to you in light of what really matters?** Is it working and finishing a task? Is it reading a book? Is it time with the family? Is it time away to rest and refresh yourself? It can be all of these things. There should be balance for us. Read Mark 6 for a look at how Jesus taught balance in ministry.

Let’s move on to Psalm 90:12. How can we make the most of our days? Moses wrote Psalm 90 and verse 12 is well-known.

Let’s break this verse down a little.

I. **Don’t Forget Today**  
   *So teach us to number our days* (12)

*We look at our lives usually by years.*
   > How old are you? 58 years old.
   > What year of college are you in? 2nd year.
   > How old do you have to be to get your license or to date?
   > How old do you have to be to get a job or to vote? 18 yrs.
   > How old do you have to be to retire? 62, 65 70 years.

B/c of this it is easy to overlook **days** in our lives.

*We look at our lives also by what is ahead:*
REF... James 4:13-14 “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” (James 4:13-14)

We talked about this verse last week and looked at the balance of preplanning but doing it with a God-consciousness.

* Jesus taught us to look at today.
REF... Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread”

* “So teach us”... We need to learn the brevity of life and the importance of today... the opportunity to make a difference, to know God, to do good, and to impact others.

“We’d better number our days, because we live a day at a time.” Warren Wiersbe

Numbering our days puts us on notice that today is all we really have for sure. We had better use it well and with godly purpose.

II. Guard Your Heart
“that we may gain a heart...” (12)

I’m going to separate the heart and wisdom for just a moment:
* The heart is important b/c it directs so much of our lives.
  > Jesus said, “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:18-19)

* Listen to what Jesus said about the hypocrites earlier in that chapter. “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me” (15:8)

* What is in your heart today? Is your heart foolish or wise?
  > Is it a jealous heart, a wicked heart, a heart that is hurting? Is it a heart of compassion... a heart of forgiveness?

We need to guard our hearts. Then we need to:

III. Gain Wisdom
“that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (12)

* Wisdom is knowing and having discernment, so that we can apply the truth of the Word of God at the right time, in the right way, with the right motive. (Warren Wiersbe, A heart of Wisdom devotion)

*Proverbs says “fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7b)
It also says “A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel” (1:5a)

* Look at the verse once again: “So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom”

Numbering our days causes us to realize our mortality. No one is assured of tomorrow.
Let me throw in this word... don’t live your days with worry.
Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” (Mt. 6:31-32)

I read recently this by Chuck Swindoll, “Your worry list may be longer than your prayer list – that’s no way to live.” (Chuck Swindoll)

**Gain a heart of wisdom:**
*Realize your accountability* for every day before God.  
*Life is bigger than us* and God’s kingdom is eternal.

**Many things teach us to number our days:**
1. **Age.** As we get older, we learn to number our days more.  
2. **Death.** Seeing others die teaches us to number our days.  
3. **Near death experiences.** These serve as “wake up calls” in our lives and can cause us to consider our days on earth.  
(Not trying to be repetitive from last week’s message but it fits here.)

**BRINGING IT HOME to where we live:**

Are you just spending time or investing your time?  
Are you numbering your days so you can live wisely?