

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

⇒ **Text:** Job 9:25-26.

⇒ **Aim:**

- To teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to the wisdom of soul winning, to teaching others God's word, and living like Christ.

⇒ **Introduction:**

- The Bible compares our life to many things.
 - Why?
 - So that we may realize how short our life is, and how important it is for us to number our days (ie: to plan our life) so that we have the maximum impact on the world for Christ.
 - In order to show us how short our life is, God compares our life to several things:

⇒ **1. A Vapour.**

- **See James 4:14**
 - All our plans depend on our life continuing.
 - But what a frail and uncertain thing our life is.
 - Who can build any solid plans on the permanence of a vapour or a mist?
 - A vapour is a mist that is dissipated by the rising sun.
 - “O remember that my life is wind....As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so is he that goeth down to the grave.” **Job 7:7,9.**

- “For he remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.”**Ps.78:39**

○ Notice that:

- 1) A vapour or wind passes away quickly, so does the life of man.
- 2) As we cannot stop a cloud or wind, so we cannot hinder the speedy motion of our days.
- 3) As a cloud comes to its height and then vanishes, so does our life and our full strength.

⇒ **2. A Flower.**

○ **See Job 14:1-2**

○ **See 1 Peter 1:24-25**

- Man’s life is compared to a fading flower.
- Many things describe a flower such as having sweet smell, beauty, variety of colour, and softness to touch.
- Job discusses none of these, but only of its cutting down.

○ Note the following truths about it’s cutting down:

- a) A flower is often cut down or cropped in it’s budding.
 - Many people are cut off in the flower of life by i) Natural death by sickness, or ii) Accidental death by violence, murder, road accidents etc.
- b) A flower if not cut off, soon withers away and is gone.
 - The “Queen of the Night” flower blooms in one night, gives a beautiful fragrance, and is dead and withered by morning.

- c) As the owner of flowers knows best when to crop them, so God knows the best time when to crop off or take away by death any of his choice flowers.

⇒ **3. A Swift Post.**

○ **See Job 9:25**

- a) As a postman rides swiftly, in a hurry, so man's life passes away swiftly.
- b) A postman of years ago would
 - - ride on the swiftest of horses,
 - - he would change horses at every stage to keep up the speed,
 - - he would take a morsel of food at each stop, then speed on,
 - - he would only go to bed at the end of his journey,
 - - all people would give way to the post rider.

⇒ **4. A Swift Ship.**

- "They are passed away as the swift ships." **Job 9:26.**
 - Watching a ship at sea, we notice how it passes very quickly, reminding us of our lives & opportunities.

⇒ **5. An Eagle.**

- "As the eagle that hasteth to the prey." **Job 9:26.**
 - An eagle is a very swiftly flying bird, but when it hastens to catch its prey, it makes the greatest speed.
 - The life of man is compared to an eagle hurrying to catch her prey when hunger adds swiftness to her wings.

- So it is with swiftness that our days pass away.
- What have you done for Christ with your life?

⇒ **6. A Weaver's Shuttle.**

- “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle.” **Job 7:6.**
 - a) A weaver’s shuttle is an instrument of very swift motion.
 - b) When the weaver has finished his web, he cuts off the thread.
 - So it is that when a man has run the length of his days appointed by God, his life is cut off.

⇒ **7. A Shadow.**

- “He fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.” **Job 14:2.**
- David said: “our days on the earth are as a shadow and there is none abiding.” **I Chronicles 29:15.**
 - Man’s life today is short compared to human lifespan before Noah’s flood.
 - Man’s life is much shorter compared to God’s eternity.
 - This is a great motive for us to redeem our time.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- a) Our days on earth are few.
- b) Our days on earth are uncertain.
- c) The shortness of our life shows the folly of living only for material things.
 - As did the rich man in **Luke 12:16-21 – Read.**

- **The word of God tells us** “The fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue forever...This their way is their folly.” **Psalm 49:10,11,13.**
- d) Our minds must be focused on eternity “knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and enduring substance.” **Hebrews 10:34.**
- e) The shortness of life motivates us to use all our labours
 - to get people to heaven,
 - to teach the Bible,
 - to plant churches,
 - to train preachers,
 - be at peace among ourselves,
 - and live holy lives pleasing to God.
- Let us be “redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” **Ephesians 5:16.**
 - “Redeem the time” means “to buy it up, rescue it from loss, improve every opportunity.”

