

Recap of 1/8/23 message by Pastor Joe (Psalm 90:10-12; Psalm 39:4-5; James 4:14)

1. *How well are we tending our souls? The bible reminds us about the fragility and brevity of life.*
2. *“Verses 7-12 [of Psalm 90] seem to indicate that Moses wrote Psalm 90 during the time of wilderness wandering—the forty-year period when six hundred thousand Israelite men (and their wives) died for unbelief (Numbers 14:21-23). What clearer reminder of Israel’s mortality could there be (Psalm 90:9-10) than an average of one funeral every twenty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, for forty years!” (The Daily Walk Bible)*
3. *“Israel did not have to travel 40 years to the Promised Land. It’s a trip that should have taken only a few weeks (see Deuteronomy 1:2). But the people rejected God’s love, rebelled against His authority, ignored His instructions for right living, and willfully broke their agreement with God (Exodus 19:8) We often make life’s journey more difficult than necessary by disobeying God. We can benefit from the lessons God taught the Israelites though.... You may find that your life is less complicated by your own sins and more rewarding if you choose to cling to God in obedience.” (The One-Year Study Bible)*
4. *Paul ‘s desire, expressed in Acts 20:24 is that he might finish his course “with joy” (KJV). Vance Havner, commenting on this, writes: “Paul was granted his heart’s desire (2 Tim. 4:7,8) ‘I have finished by course,’ he wrote later, and it was with joy. Not with money or earthly possessions, because he wrote from a dark dungeon, needing his cloak and parchments. Not with a host of friends, for all men forsook him. Not with fame for he died a martyr. But he finished with joy, anticipating a crown.”*
5. *Life moves so quickly that we can forget to tend our souls.... Take time to be alone and make yourself utterly available only to yourself and to God. Connect with Him—and in doing so take care of your soul.” (Men’s Devotional Bible)*
6. *Gaining a heart of wisdom:*
 - Pursue God’s will first not our own will or after everything else has been tried. James 4:14
 - Be single-minded, pursuing one ambition, to be like Christ. Philippians 3:10-14
 - Listen for God’s voice in all you do, don’t try to figure everything out on your own. Proverbs 3:5,6*The Message*
 - Learn from the failure of those who have gone before us (as with the Israelites). Deuteronomy 2:14-15.