



23 January 2026

Wasting Time

When did you last wait, and wait some more for someone or something which was late, very late? Or they didn't arrive at all? Or if they did, you still ended up thinking, "That was a waste of my time!"?

What about the times you worked on a project, went to a meeting or watched a program with anticipation, but at the end thought, "That was a waste of my time!"?

You may have seen a cartoon similar to the one where the man presenting the results of a survey told the group, "Unfortunately two-thirds of the people who completed half the survey thought it was a 100% waste of time."

One writer suggests, "Wasting time is an art form, but sometimes it can turn into a disaster."

Another writer tells us about the time she wondered why she was wasting so much time and not getting her novel done. She decided to keep a record of a day to see. Just a few highlights:

She got up early and repeated five times, "Today is the day I am going to work on my novel."

She got ready for the day and then checked her email. Then she did some chores, after which she went on line to check the news.

She started drafting a new blog, "101 Ways to Avoid Writing a Novel."

And finally, much later after many other things, she recorded, "I did it! Wrote 200 words of my novel."

Wasting time.

Wasted moments can turn into a disaster of wasted days, weeks, months, even years. More than a few people have looked back over their life and thought, "All that I've done doesn't amount to anything. It doesn't count. I don't count. I've wasted my life."

We want our life to count.

Psalm 90 is a prayer of Moses which opens declaring that God is the eternal One and we are mortals who sprout and flourish for a short time and then life here is gone. We are to remember this and also that God is our judge.



Then he prayed, “So [God] teach us to number our days so that we may present to You a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

Numbering our days includes remembering who God is and we are, living accordingly, faithfully with God so we can “sing for joy and rejoice all our days” (verse 14), and see God confirm the work we do for Him (verse 17). That is living wisely, having “a heart of wisdom.”

In short, Moses’ prayer teaches us to count our days so that our lives will count, will truly count in the sight of God.

This is another view of the truth of

doing everything for the glory of God, as Paul instructs in 1 Corinthians chapter 10;

for seeking first God’s kingdom and His righteousness, as Jesus said, recorded in Matthew chapter 6;

for fixing our eyes on the things above, not the things on earth, as Paul wrote in Colossians chapter 2;

for not being foolish but wise, making the most of our time in these evil days as we understand God’s will for us, as Paul wrote in Ephesians chapter 5;

for having our sights and our conduct in line with receiving the “Well done, good and faithful servant” from Jesus.

Moses prayed “teach us to number our days.” We must rely on God’s instruction, God enabling us to build a pattern of discipline to count our days so our lives will truly count.

It can be easy to slip back into the natural way of life. When the Berlin Wall came down some people from the East walked into the Western section and saw how much nicer and better it was, but went back to the East. They weren’t all that happy there in the East. They didn’t have hope for a better life in the future there, but they were afraid of change.

We need to ask God to teach us to learn “to number our days”, to have a daily, even moment by moment discipline that keeps us from wasting time and living lives that count for God, bring glory to Him, and joy to our hearts.

Pastor Lyle