

“As the Life of a Flower”

Psalm 103:15-16

Introduction: Look at our lives as compared to a flower (Psalm 103:15-16).

Man’s life cycle is found in those two verses.

As a flower, we have our moment in the sun - we flourish (vs. 15).

Then, time passes us by as the wind - and we die (vs. 16).

Our place in life is remembered no more - we are forgotten.

(Read verse 1, “As the Life of a Flower,” # 570, Hymns for Worship)

I. Life is short. Flowers “bloom but for a season.”

A. Isaiah understood the shortness of life (Isa. 40:6-8).

People are as grass, your goodness is as the flower and your life is as the Lord’s breath. One thing remains - the Word of God.

B. Life is a vapor (James 4:14). We have little time.

C. Death can occur at any time!

1. Use local paper illustration.

2. I have flown helicopters while performing topping checks ...

3. Our life could end slow and naturally or quick and traumatically.

4. Old age might take us.

5. I’m trying to illustrate just how short life is! We should be as sober about our own death. Older people are in touch with their mortality. I’m afraid young people are not. But a sudden death could occur to either.

6. I’m sure you know of someone who died in a sudden accident. Do you think they woke up and thought, “I’m going to die today?”

7. We need to be prepared for death and realize our life is short (James 1:9-11).

II. We have our moment in the sun. We will bloom. What do we make of it?

A. Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23).

1. Seed among the stones = tribulation and persecution because of the Word (James 1:12).

2. Seed among the thorns = cares of the world (Luke 12:22-31).

B. You will not bloom unless you are baptized (Matt. 15:13).

C. We must always do God’s will as long as he gives us the ability (Matt. 7:21; Gal. 6:7-10).

1. Notice Paul didn’t say, “I quit!” or “I’m retired.” or “I’ve done my share” (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

2. If we faint, quit or retire. We won’t reap.

D. Poem, The Dash.

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke of the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all of the time
That she spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars... the house... the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left...
(You could be at "dash midrange")

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way that other's feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

III. Are you prepared?

A. What impressions will you leave behind?

1. For example, do you remember how your flower bed looked last summer? How about the flower bed from the year before?

2. The Rich man in Luke 16:19-31 didn't live a good life. In fact, he wanted someone to return and correct his relatives so they wouldn't follow his example.

B. If you die today, would people have a favorable impression of you?

Will they say:

1. "She was never baptized."

2. "He rarely studied his Bible."

3. "Dad never went to church on the opening day of deer season."

Conclusion: Our lives are short. "We bloom but for a season." We have to make the most of it (1 Pet. 1:22-25).

(Invitation song #570: "As the Life of a Flower"
or #199: "Where the Roses Never Fade")