

**Methuselah: What Are You Living for** Genesis 5:21-32, Hebrews 11:1-7  
adapted from **SermonCentral.com** by Wayne Lawson. First Baptist Church. Ardmore, OK 73402

**Genesis 5:27** *"And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died."*

I was sitting in Detroit airport waiting for connector flight to Pittsburgh  
When a well dressed gentleman sat next to me ... obviously wanting to talk  
(which I always take as a "sign" from God

But what he wanted to tell me was how successful he had been.  
told me how wealthy and well educated he was....  
Upper management at PPG -- companies in Singapore -- industry advisor.  
Wealthy educated wife was

Out of politeness he asked what I did for a living. I said  
**"I work for a Jewish carpenter ..."**  
After I explained the reference to him he replied  
Religion is a waste  
I don't believe in a God who would let bad things happen to people  
(Line out of a Woody Allen movie)  
I pointed out that it is an oxymoron to say  
"you don't believe in God because He lets bad things happen"  
But he didn't understand my point

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He went on to ask me – why an obviously intelligent well-educated individual  
Such as myself was wasting their time in the ministry

I simply responded that  
**I see something that many people are unable to see.**

**"I see the Kingdom of God,"**  
it is in clear view. (a time spanning, world spanning battle between Good and evil)

Because of what I see in the spiritual realm, I want to be on God's side  
I can't help but to try to invite others into God's family,  
and equip those within God's household for the spiritual battles they daily face.

Sadly that was the end of his conversational mood  
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And I thought ... "brother I hate to think where you will probably spend eternity."

Do you know that you can learn so much about people just by watching and listening?

And the longer you listen you can usually tell where they will spend eternity.

**Because –**

**You can tell what their God is by what they are doing with their lives.**

And so now I ask you - **What Are You Doing with your life?**  
**what are you living for?**

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As you read your way through the Scriptures --  
you will soon note that God does not commend us, in our final hour,  
for what we have achieved in this life.

God is not impressed with our status – degrees – employment history – titles  
Wealth – education – size of our home - or pension plan.

**Those who found favor with God did not find favor because of their position in life... but because of what they lived for!**

- Enoch– Walked with God
- David – Man after God’s own Heart
- Abraham – Had Faith
- Moses –king, shepherd, wilderness wanderer, Ascended to Nebo’s peak with God at his side
- John – was He whom Jesus Loved
- Job – was Upright
- Daniel – was Faithful to God
- Elijah was Courageous for the Lord
- Joshua – One who, with his family, served the Lord
- Noah – a righteous man in his generation and found Grace in the Eyes of the Lord

Those who are able to get the attention of God are those who see what others do not.

**Don’t’ get me wrong -- Achieving success in life is good, and it is healthy, but it is not the most important thing.**

It is always a sad commentary

At a funeral for a non-Christian, when the family eulogizes their life, by listing all the good things they had done ... as if God had His scorecard out and they wanted to make sure that he hadn’t missed any points.

at the end of my life, I only want it to be noted that **I relied on God’s grace.**

**And that as God’s child I wanted to live ..... seeing and bringing to pass God’s kingdom!**

what are you living for?

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Let's take a closer look at the single Biblical reference to a person named **Methuselah** (who you may have learned in Sunday School was the longest-living person recorded in the Bible.) His long life is even more interesting, Not because of what is said about him ... **but what is not said about him.**

GENESIS 5:27 "**AND ALL THE DAYS OF METHUSELAH WERE NINE HUNDRED SIXTY AND NINE YEARS AND HE DIED.**"

Using all that we know about Methuselah, let's take a moment and talk about his earthly achievements. Not concerned right now about those things that please God. Let's find what he achieved to please man.

- We have no information as to where he was residing at the time of his death
- We can not say he was the president or director of a certain civic club, or that he ever belonged to any club.
- Did Mr. Methuselah work on his job for 900 years prior to retirement? There is no record of him working a single day of his life
- We cannot say that Mr. Methuselah was a good member of a certain church?  
No, we have no record of his state of faith –  
**and in this place in the genealogy that silence speaks loudly!**

Here is a man who lived 969 years,  
And even though both his parents and his heirs received several Biblical comments on their faith **there is no such information about Methuselah**

Does this sound kind of strange? **What is the problem?**  
From every indication, **Methuselah lived longer on the earth than anyone**  
And yet he apparently died without knowing God.

**there was nothing to say about him, -- neither good or bad!**  
**He was just a genealogical place holder.**

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I suggest to you today that the things that God is concerned about **have to do with consciously living in that realm that most people just do not see.**

The things we do – that are notable to the Bible  
Are those things that assist the Household of faith!

**You might ask -- then why did God give so many years to Methuselah if he wasn't in right relationship with God?**

If we were honest – God should not be patient with us,  
most of us are in the same condition as Methuselah -- **-- neither good or bad!**  
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Perhaps this morning **you may feel sorry for Methuselah.**  
Perhaps you think that he was not raised in the proper home,  
perhaps he had a bad upbringing therefore, he was a product of his environment.

Well, Let's consider his genealogy.

We learn that Methuselah's father **Enoch** was very well known in the Bible.

- Enoch was 65 years old when his first son Methuselah was born (3288 B.C)
- and Methuselah was **born into one of the most spiritual families** in the Bible
- Enoch, Methuselah's father, was known for **walking with God**

Let's not take this fact too lightly.

Because this reveals much about how Methuselah was raised.

We can tell something about people by what they are known for.

- There are people who are known for their working habits
- There are people who are known for their partying
- There are people who are known for sports and agility
- There are people who are known for their Cussing
- There are people who are known for Drinking
- There are people who are known for their Intellect
- There are people who are known for the Car they Drive
- There are people who are known for the clothes they wear
- and for the Company They Keep
- **But Enoch was known for Walking With God!** (twice mentioned in Bible)

But at the **age of 969**, When Methuselah passed away, he **wasn't known for a thing.**

In fact he probably never even had a funeral –

because, if you do the math you will know,

**That Mr. Methuselah probably died in the flood...  
with the rest of humanity that had "grieved God to His heart"** (Genesis 6:6)

... and perhaps that was sufficient commentary on his life.

However, **I do** want to call to your attention that although Methuselah  
missed the mark with God: both his FATHER, his SON and GRANDSON  
were Biblically noted as ones who looked for God .....

indeed Methuselah's grandson was one of the most famous men in the Bible: **NOAH**

Methuselah's son, **Lamech**, actually died a few years before him dying peacefully just before the flood we know he was looking for God's kingdom – Because he named his son **NOAH** Meaning: "Rest" Saying: *"this one shall bring us relief from our work and the toil of our hands."*

And **Noah** was known as the most righteous man of his time And for this reason **Noah found GRACE in the eyes of the Lord.** ... *and it left him high and dry!*

but we don't have any such summation of the time Methuselah spent on earth

Think about that for a moment. Here is someone living for 969 years and there is nothing more to say about him than, he was **born – lived - & died.**

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**His father Enoch left a testimony that "by faith he walked with God. "**

Thousands of years later we are still studying and learning how we might get this kind of testimony from God.

His grandson **Noah was a proclaimer of righteousness** -- "just and perfect in his generation. "

But Methuselah, as far as we know, never did anything worthy of the slightest mention in the Holy Scriptures.

I can't help but to wonder this morning – what are you doing with your life!

The Bible does sometimes also note what significant people did for a living

- Cain was a farmer
- Abel was a shepherd
- Nimrod was a mighty hunter
- Jonathan was a Prince
- Peter was a Fisherman
- Mordecai was a Foster Parent

The Bible always mentions whenever a person was known for something (good or bad) and yet, the sad truth is -- the man who lived the longest was known for - nothing!

What are you doing with your life? What are you living for?

Do you realize that **right now there are two records being kept on your life?**

**The most obvious one is your earthly record.**

- You probably have a birth certificate
- Social security number
- Did you receive **report cards** while you were in school?
- Do you have a **driver's license**?
- A high **school diploma**?
- A **degree** from a university or college?
- A **marriage license**?
- Any **credit cards**?
- Do you receive any forms to fill out every year from the IRS?
- **More is known about you by our Government than you realize**
- **Even the Grocery store** knows some very intimate facts about you  
... as you Scan your shopper's card?

Sometimes local people are featured in the local paper for special events in our life.  
Or other newsworthy moments.  
And if there is nothing else – there is at least wedding announcement & the obituary.

Documentaries are made of the rich and famous.  
(Ever read the tabloids or watch E.T.)  
we learn more about the famous than we really need to know.

And to our great fear, our children publish their entire life for all to see  
on My Space or Facebook

All these earthly records attest to the fact of our earthly existence.  
These records say that we were – born – and lived -- or that we have died.

Yet, when all is "said and done," and all our earthly feats  
are added together to complete our earthly record,  
**only one of our earthly accomplishments will have generated enough  
eternal news to be worthy of the smallest mention  
in the other record book being kept on each one of us.**

The Bible records in REVELATION 20:12-15  
*"AND I SAW THE DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT, STAND BEFORE GOD;  
AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED:  
AND **ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED**, WHICH IS THE BOOK OF LIFE:  
AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED OUT OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN  
THE BOOKS, ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS.  
AND THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN IT;  
AND DEATH AND HELL DELIVERED UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN THEM:*

*AND THEY WERE JUDGED EVERY ONE ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS."  
"AND WHOSOEVER WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST  
INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE."*

It's quite clear from the Bible  
that Heaven keeps a much different record of our life  
from those records maintained on us during our short stay here on earth.

In heaven, instead of our **natural birthday** being recorded,  
we find the record of significance is our **new birth**.

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what have you done with your life? What are you living for?

Perhaps you are very productive in earthly things -- but void in eternal things!

You may be a good moral person, but in either case, the truth is,  
**if you do not know what You Are Doing with your life,  
you need to understand this morning what are you doing?.**

What are you living for? –  
If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ to be your personal savior  
right now make a decision to follow Jesus

What are you living for? –  
Now as God's child, make a conscience decision to live for God's kingdom

What are you living for?  
**One Day, God will either say "Not Good Enough" or "Well Done"**

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**After 969 years what do you think God finally said to Methuselah**

Well... What is it Rev. that you believe God finally said?

I think God said something along the lines of a famous song by  
**Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes** 1972  
because I think they said it best

*IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW, YOU WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER KNOW ME...*  
["awarded songs of the century"(also sung by simply Red 1989)]

-- What are you living for?