

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Make the Rest of Your Life

the Best of Your Life

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 23:6

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1369

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Psalm 23:1-6
- b) Satan has no happy old people.
 - i) Satan always gives the best first and the worst last.
 - ii) Proverbs 20:17
 - iii) Satan is a counterfeiter, a deceiver, and is guilty of false advertising.
- c) The Lord Jesus gives the best last.
 - i) John 2:1-10
 - ii) With Jesus, it keeps getting better and better.
 - iii) Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.
 - (1) There is so much more than that first sweet day.
- d) Psalm 23:6
 - i) It is good now.
 - ii) The best is yet to be.
 - iii) Goodness and mercy are following His sheep everywhere the flock goes.
- e) In Psalm 23:6, the Psalmist tells us about the house of the Lord.
 - i) And today's message will share three things about the house of the Lord, about Heaven.

2) THE CERTAINTY OF IT (PSALM 23:6)

- a) "Surely, I will dwell in the house of the Lord."
 - i) No if's, and's, or but's about it; it's a sure thing.
- b) John 14:1-3
 - i) The Lord Jesus Christ reiterated and underscored what David had said in Psalm 23:6.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus is talking about the same place that David was talking about.
 - iii) The Lord Jesus was truth incarnate.
 - (1) He never lied; He always told the truth.
 - (2) He would not tell us about the hope of Heaven if it were simply a lie, a superstition, or a fond delusion.
- c) Heaven is a real place.
 - i) It is not merely a state of mind.
 - ii) It is not a condition.
 - iii) It is a place so real that Jesus is there in a literal, resurrected body.
 - iv) Heaven is a place on God's map.
- d) We talk about the location of Heaven as being up.
 - i) The Bible writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, and they said that Jesus came down from Heaven and that He was taken up to Heaven.
 - (1) John 6:38
 - (2) Acts 1:11
 - ii) There is one place on the globe that is always up, and that is north.
 - iii) The Bible speaks of Heaven as being in the north.
 - (1) Isaiah 14:13

- (a) It is above the stars of God.
- (b) "In the sides of the north."
- (2) Leviticus 1:11
 - (a) The sacrifice was to take place on the side of the altar northward toward the Lord.
- (3) Psalm 75:6-7
 - (a) Upward motion comes from the north.
- iv) There is a place somewhere in the north, and that's where Heaven is.
 - (1) It is above the stars of God.
- e) 2 Corinthians 12:2
 - i) The Apostle Paul went to what he called the third Heaven.
 - (1) He said that you can go there out of the body or in the body.
 - (a) Jesus is there in a body.
 - (b) Some people are there without a body.
 - (i) They will have a body later on.
- f) The Bible mentions three Heavens:
 - i) The first Heaven
 - (1) This is the atmosphere.
 - (2) The Bible speaks of the fowls of Heaven.
 - (a) Job 35:11
 - (b) Psalm 104:12
 - (3) This includes the clouds and the air that envelopes the Earth.
 - ii) The second Heaven
 - (1) The stars are called the host of Heaven.
 - (2) The stellar vast reaches; the starry Heavens.
 - iii) The third Heaven
 - (1) Beyond the stars of God, there is a place called Heaven.
 - iv) Someone has said that we see the first Heaven by day, the second Heaven by night, and the third Heaven by faith.
- g) Heaven is a present place.
 - i) When a Christian dies, he goes immediately to Heaven.
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
 - (1) The Apostle Paul was confident that at the moment of death, he would go to be with Jesus.
 - iii) Acts 7:56, 59
 - (1) Just before he died, Stephen had a vision of Heaven.
 - iv) Luke 23:43
- h) Heaven is a perfect place.
 - i) Revelation 21:4
 - (1) There will be no more sin, no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more death, no more disease, no more doubts, no more pain; these things are gone and are passed away.
 - ii) 1 John 3:2
 - (1) We don't yet know what we will be like in Heaven.

- (a) We don't know if we will eat in Heaven, how old we will be, etc.
- iii) Heaven is going to be the presence of all that is good and the absence of all that is evil.
- iv) Heaven is going to be all that the loving heart of God can conceive and the omnipotent hand of God can prepare.
- i) Heaven is a purposeful place.
 - i) Don't get the idea that when we go to Heaven that we will get a robe and a halo and sit on a fluffy cloud and pluck a harp.
 - ii) Revelation 7:15
 - (1) His servants shall serve Him.
 - iii) All we who love the Lord Jesus desire to serve Him better than we do now.
 - (1) We currently have this old, sinful flesh that holds us down; but one day, we will serve Him like we've never served Him before.
 - iv) We will be able to praise the Lord.

3) THE COMPANY OF IT (PSALM 23:6)

- a) When the Psalmist speaks of the house of the Lord in this passage, he does not mean a building of God.
 - i) There is a building of God eternal in Heaven, but that is not what this passage is referring to.
 - ii) He is speaking of the household of God.
 - (1) This is what Jesus meant in John 14:2.
 - (a) All of the saints of all of the ages are going to be there together.
 - (b) All of our brothers and sisters in Christ, all of those in the household of faith will be there together.
- b) We will know our loved ones in Heaven.
 - i) That is the only place we will ever truly know them.
 - ii) 2 Samuel 12:21-23
 - (1) We can go and meet our loved ones there.
 - iii) Matthew 17:1-4
 - (1) At the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples saw Moses and Elijah.
 - (a) Though they had never seen them before, they didn't have to be introduced; they knew who they were.
 - iv) We will keep our personalities.
 - v) Heaven is a real place, and real people are going to be there.
- c) We will be there with the saints of all of the ages.
 - i) Moses will be there, and we can ask him about the wilderness wanderings.
 - ii) David will be there, and we can listen to him play and sing Psalm 23 for us.
 - iii) The Apostle Paul will be there, and we can sit at his feet and listen to him teach the book of Romans.
 - iv) John, the aged apostle, will be there, and he will open all the mysteries of the book of the Revelation.
 - v) Simon Peter will be there.

- d) But being with all of the saints is not what really makes Heaven, Heaven.
 - i) It is Jesus.
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 5:7-8
 - iii) Isaiah 33:17
 - iv) John 17:24

4) THE CONSTANCY OF IT (PSALM 23:6)

- a) We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
- b) Sheep are nomadic.
 - i) They always wander.
 - ii) If they're not wandering, they are being led by the shepherd; beside the still waters, in the green pastures, through the dark valley, over hills, etc.
 - (1) They don't settle down in one place.
 - iii) God doesn't intend for us to settle down here because this world is not our home.
 - iv) Hebrews 11:8-10
- c) Heaven will be a place of constant joy, constant service, and constant praise.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Have you ever thought about the length of eternity?
- b) Can you say that the Lord is your Shepherd?
- c) Are you sure that if you died right now that you would go to Heaven?
- d) 2 Corinthians 6:2
 - i) Today is the day of salvation.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16