Moses Last Prayer
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Moses’ closing supplication is a prayer:
   1. Of benediction to the Lord
   2. Of respect for the brevity of life
   3. Of legacy to the living
B. Psalm 90
   1. The headings to these Psalms are ancient; it reads: “A prayer of Moses, the man of God.” It may be the oldest Psalm in the Bible
      a. Moses wrote several songs - Deut. 31:19
   2. This prayer appears to have been composed during the wilderness wanderings, after Kadesh Barnea where the ten spies brought an evil report and God’s wrath upon the nation of Israel.
   3. This prayer of Moses appears to be a closing prayer uttered at Aaron or Miriam’s funeral, or at the end of a worship assembly, or at the end of the wilderness wanderings.
   4. It would be appropriate to use today when dismissing a prayer service or conducting a memorial service
C. It is a unique Psalm
   1. Four parts:
      a. Vss 1 - 2 declare God has always been alive and always will be.
      b. Vss 3 - 6 teach that people will not always be alive. Life is short.
      c. Vss 7 - 11 explain that people have not obeyed God’s will.
      d. Vss 12 - 17 appeal to God for kindness.
   2. There are three Hebrew words for God: Lord, LORD, and God.
      a. In verses 1 and 17 is the word “Lord,” meaning “master,” someone with authority. It translates the Hebrew word “Adonai.”
      b. In verse 13 is LORD, with four capital letters, translating as “Yahweh” or Jehovah, meaning I AM. Declares that God is always alive
      c. In verses 2 and 17 is the word “God” translates from “Elohim,” a plural word meaning “All Powerful Rulers with all authority”

I. OF BENEDICTION TO THE LORD
   A. Psalm 90:1-2
      1. The word “benediction” literally means to speak well of someone.
      2. Moses is speaking well of the Lord, Adonai, as the dwelling place of His people, as the One who Exists.
      3. God is the sanctuary for His people. What does this mean?
      4. God is the only permanent Being in this impermanent universe. God’s people dwell in Him. Therefore, dwelling in God is the only permanent place we have in this temporary world
      5. God preexists all things, transcends all things, and envelops all things
         a. 1Peter 4:19; Psalm 51:9-11, 84:11
II. OF RESPECT FOR THE BREVITY OF LIFE
   A. Psalm 90:3-11
      1. Verse 4 teaches that God isn’t limited by time.
      2. Verses 5-6, 10 teach us that by comparison man’s days are limited.
         a. James 4:13-15
      3. Moses acknowledges a relationship between sin and death
      4. Verses 3, 7-9, 11 - Moses reveals death as the expression of God’s anger for sin - Num. 26:65; Rom. 5:12
      5. God does not remain angry and has changed death - Psalm 116:15

III. OF LEGACY TO THE LIVING
   A. Psalm 90:12-17
      1. A lesson to learn - verse 12 - “Teach us to number our days”
         b. Value of life - Eph. 5:15-17
         c. Wisdom for life - Prov. 3:13-18
      2. A Lord to love - verses 13-14
         a.Repentance is the first expression of love a sinner makes to God
            1) Psalm 103:8-18
         b. Contentment with God, His word, and what He has given is the second expression of love a penitent sinner makes to God
            1) Phil. 4:4, 11
      3. A life to live - verses 15-17
         a. A happy life - John 16:20
         b. A learning life - Psalm 77:12
         c. A stable life - Prov. 4:25-27

Conclusion:
   A. “I am content to fill a little space if God be glorified.” (Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley)
   B. “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” (John Piper)
   C. The Bible doesn't say be satisfied to the point where you don't want change, but be satisfied for now until God brings about the change.
   D. May this be the last words of the last prayer we offer in this life - Psalm 90:13-14 - “Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy"