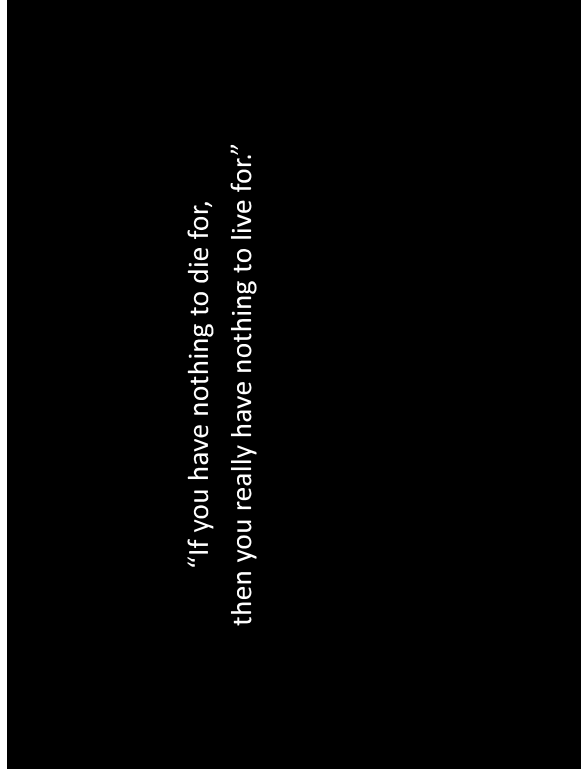
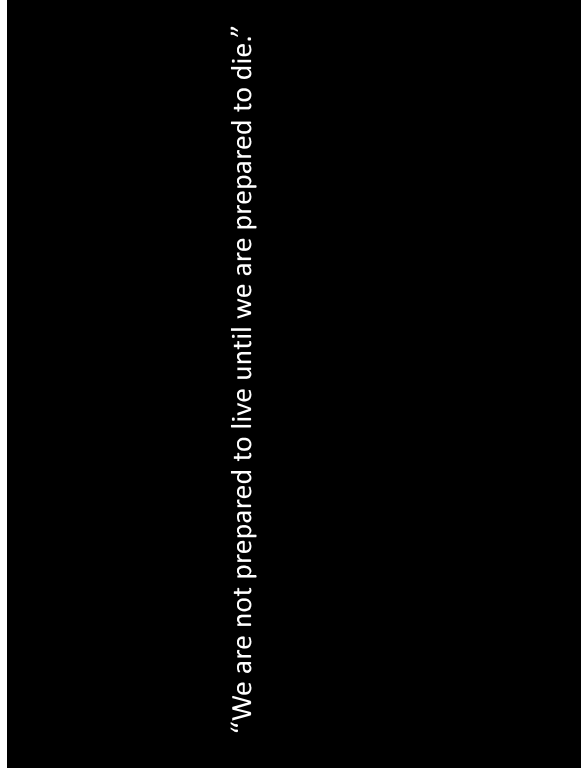
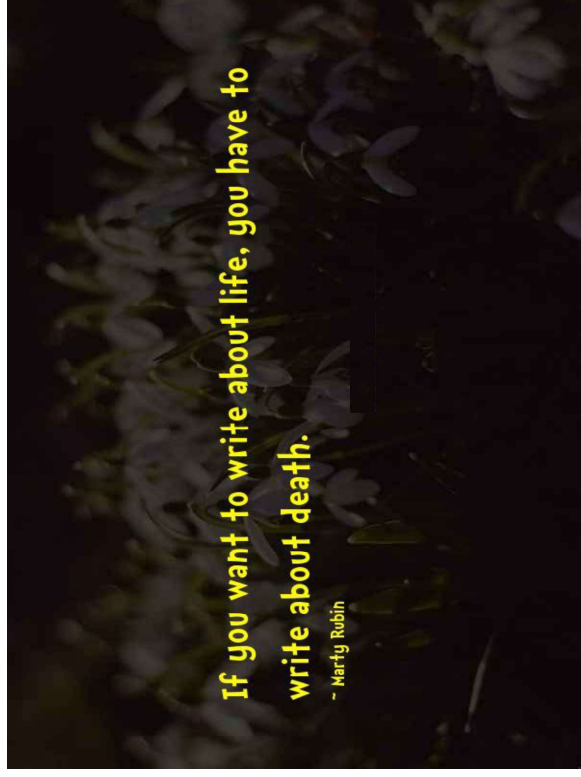




“Death Is Predictable . . . But Life Isn’t”

Ecc1. 9:1-9

July 26, 2020



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“all this” – why do bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people?

“heart” – seat of reflection, serious thought.

- It does not matter if you are righteous or wise. You simply don't know what is around the corner –
 - It may be something you love or something you hate.
 - It may be someone you love or someone you hate.
 - It may be someone who loves you or someone who hates you.
 - So its back to the sovereignty of God. We can never escape it.
 - Spiritual maturity is marked by a deep understanding of God's sovereignty. You won't get very far in your Christian life without it.
- 2 It is the same for all. There is one fate for the righteous and for the wicked; for the good, for the clean and for the unclean; for the man who offers a sacrifice and for the one who does not sacrifice. As the good man is, so is the sinner; as the swearer is, so is the one who is afraid to swear.**
- Everyone has the same ending “under the sun”:**
- 5 contrasts:**
1. Righteous and wicked.
 2. Good and the sinner.
 3. Clean and unclean.
 4. One who sacrifices and one that doesn't.
 5. One who takes an oath and one that doesn't.
- There are no differences on either side of the fence.
 - How can this be? Because of the curse.
 - The curse swallows all men into the same place.
 - So how do you escape from the curse?

3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.

- Every individual will someday experience death — that is the universal condition faced by all human beings.
- Something in us deserves to die; that is what universal death declares.
- **“insanity”** - הוֹלָלָה - holelah – madness, insanity.
- Sin, evil, and wickedness are all insanity. When you sin, you are having a moment of insanity. Sin makes no sense. Its crazy, insane. It is only destructive.
- Death is inevitable. You and I can work out, take our vitamins, drink bottled water, stay away from McDonalds, and resist Krispy Kremes, but even with the best of care for this flesh, it is one day going to give out and we will die.
- Death is Death. Don't go to a funeral and sing *The Lion King* song, “The Circle of Life.” That song says, “Death is just part of life.” No it isn't, it is death! It's the wages of our rebellion and sin against God. We were created by a living God, to be a living people, who live forever with this living God. The only way to get rid of death is to get rid of sin.
- Something to think about: Why is it that physical death is not removed by the application of the atonement to the believer? Why do we still have to die physically?

Rom 5:12

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned,

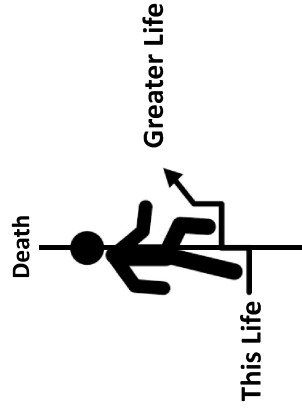
Gen 1:1-2

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.
- Sin leads to funerals.
 - A funeral is one event where one can no longer escape ultimate reality. A funeral is proof that we are not in control of our own lives. Funerals make people uncomfortable.
 - Man has to make a decision during his life – live with death as final existence or bow to God, submit to Him and live beyond death.

We share, with unbelievers, a common destiny, but, we DO NOT share a common eternity.

- Death is not an accident, but an appointment. One that no one will miss or be late for.
- Death should energize you not paralyze you.

Believer



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Written on tombstone -

Pause stranger when you pass by,

As you are now, so once was I.

As I am now, so you will be,

So prepare for death & follow me.

(an unknown passer by scratched this reply below)

To follow you I'm not content.

Until I know which way you went.

“Humanity cannot therefore escape a religious response to its condition, because individual humans can never escape the fact that they must die.”

- Brooks Alexander

Spiritual Counterfeits Group

4 For whoever is joined with all the living, there is hope; surely a live dog is better than a dead lion.

- As long as you are alive there is always hope – hope that things will change, hope that a relationship will work out, hope that something will end, hope that something will begin, hope that something will get better.

“This is one of the best passages in the Bible to offer to one who is contemplating suicide. Life may be a terrible drudgery for you right now. Relationships may have soured, finances may be non-existent, and spiritually you may feel far from God, but if you are breathing, there is hope that things may get better. Many people have built success out of the ashes of failure. Relationships can be healed; sickness can be cured; work can improve. It never makes sense to take your life.”

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- After death, no more opportunity exists to change our record.

John 9:4

4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

- Death ends your opportunities here on earth.
- To the Jew, a dog was the lowest of creatures, the lion was the most honored.
- A live dog is better off than the king of the jungle if he's dead.
- Today, we might say a live cockroach is better than a dead lion.

1 Sam 17:43

43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"

- Those who are the lowest on earth, but still living, are better off than the greatest of the great who have died.

“Someone asked me if my dream was to live on in the hearts of people. I said I would prefer to live on in my apartment. You drop dead one day, and it means less than nothing if billions of people are singing your praises every day all day long.”

-- Woody Allen

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- Once people die their memory may extend a generation, or possibly two, but usually their memory is forgotten by the third generation.

Ecclesiastes is about the search for remembrance -

Ecc1 1:11

1 There is no **remembrance** of earlier things;
And also of the later things which will occur,
There will be for them no **remembrance**
Among those who will come later still.

Ecc1 2:16

16 For there is no lasting **remembrance** of the wise man as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die!

Ecc1 8:10

10 So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are soon forgotten in the city where they did thus.

Ps 34:16

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,

To **cut off the memory** of them from the earth.

Isa 26:14

14 The dead will not live, the departed spirits will not rise;
Therefore You have punished and destroyed them,
And You have wiped out all **remembrance** of them.

Prov 10:7

7 The **memory** of the righteous is blessed,
But the name of the wicked will rot.

Ps 112:6

6 For he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be **remembered** forever.

6 Indeed their love, their hate and their zeal have already perished, and they will no longer have a share in all that is done under the sun.

- Solomon specifically lists three emotions that highlight life's advantages over death.
- These three emotions are intense – Love, Hate, and Zeal. Yet, after you die, you will never experience them again living “under the sun.”
- Being alive is better than being dead because those who are alive still have the opportunities and capacities to enjoy life but the dead do not.

It is important to be remembered -

Gen 8:1

8 But God **remembered** Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided.

Ex 2:24-25

24 So God heard their groaning; and God **remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

Num 10:9

9 "When you go to war in your land against the adversary who attacks you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be **remembered** before the Lord your God, and be saved from your enemies.

Ps 105:8

8 He has **remembered** His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,

Luke 23:42-43

42 And he was saying, "Jesus, **remember** me when You come in Your kingdom!"

43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

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- The first command is “Go!”
- In the morning, first thing – **TAKE YOUR PULSE**. If you have one – rejoice, celebrate – you’re alive.
- So, there is no time to waste. Death is coming. Stop complaining. Stop harboring your anger. Stop brooding about your problems. Get over your anxiety.
- You may be “over the hill”, but that’s better than being “under the hill”.
- This is not for self-indulgence.
- Life is a gift from God. Enjoy it!
- Our lives are not going to last. Neither those around us.
- You will die and then lose all opportunity for enjoyment.
- Stay in the moment.
- Don’t be anxious about tomorrow, it has its own problems.
- Pick up your children or your grandchildren and love them.
- God has approved all of these things to enjoy.

Enjoy Relaxing Meals

Prov 15:17

17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is
Than a fattened ox served with hatred.

Prov 17:1

17 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it
Than a house full of feasting with strife.

Ps 104:14-15

14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the labor of man,
So that he may bring forth food from the earth,
15 And wine which makes man's heart glad,
So that he may make his face glisten with oil,
And food which sustains man's heart.

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- *White garments* and anointing *oil* make life more comfortable in a hot climate.
- Wearing white garments indicates a time of celebration and happiness.
- Oil made the dry skin refreshed and comfortable.
- Solomon is saying, “May you celebrate and enjoy your life always.”
- “What do I have to rejoice about? I could die any time.” Exactly! That’s a great reason to let every waking moment be a celebration of God’s gift of life.
- Put on some nice clothes, freshen up, and enjoy a meal with a friend or wife or husband or family or ????

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- The object of “enjoy” is “life,” not “woman” but it is with the woman whom you love.
- If not married, then enjoy it with a friend.
- How could Solomon say this? Note: it doesn’t say, Live joyfully with your wives. Solomon’s wives seduced him away from the Lord, & he paid for it.
- Companionship is important in life regardless who it is.
- In this life “under the sun,” this is our reward for all of our toil and work.

**“What comes from man will never last—
It’s here today, tomorrow past;
What comes from God will always be
The same for all eternity! “**