

April 8, 2012
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Monday

[Rom. 6:21](#) For the outcome of those things is death.
[Acts 2:24](#) God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death.

People try hard not to think of death. Today, children generally live into adulthood, unlike a generation ago. Few people we know personally are dying in war, none in famine, never by plague. It seems one goal of parenting has become hiding death from children. But death still comes and comes to all. Young and old alike will die. Turning a blind eye to the reality of death does not stop its arrival; it only leaves us unprepared. Are you ready to die? How about those you love? They will die and so will you! Jesus is the answer. But do you understand the question?

Tuesday

[John 10:10](#) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Some people merely 'exist', but others have discovered the way to live fully, abundantly every day. Jesus said, "I have come to give you abundant life." What thief is stealing your abundant living? Don't blame it on the Devil. He is a small part of the problem. Instead your life is being stolen by internal and personal thievery. Your lack of appropriating God's word to your life will do more to rob you of abundant living than any devil. There is the thief of bitterness we hide in our heart. There is the thief of faithlessness. We rob ourselves when we fail to join the mission of Jesus and stretch our faith in obedience. Jesus will set you free from these and other thieves, if you will follow Him out of that graveyard.

Wednesday

[Rom. 6:23](#) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Comparing yourself to others is a path in a graveyard. If you compare yourself with those who are obviously caught in sin, you falsely feel self-assured and prideful. You overlook your own faults and hide behind the failures of another. If you compare yourself with someone you think is better than yourself, you live in constant and false condemnation. The truth? Everybody is a sinner. That includes you and me. We have all failed and failed miserably. We are all judged and lost. Jesus is the way out of the graveyard of sin's judgment. Don't compare yourself with someone else hoping to feel better. Turn and follow Jesus out of the grave.

Thursday

[Matt. 6:12](#) "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Medieval artists painted pictures of hell with horrid and vivid imagination. Fire leaping around men and women in agony. Demons dancing and tormenting the lost souls. And men and women devouring one another in cannibalistic ritual. To live with the bitterness that comes from not forgiving another or to sense that you yourself are not forgiven by God is a devouring hell, even while you live upon the earth. Jesus died to set you free from such a hell as this. There is nothing but death in a lack of forgiveness. There is nothing but hell in holding on to bitterness. Follow Jesus and he will lead you out of this hellacious graveyard.

Friday

[Rom. 15:13](#) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is not wealth that makes life abundant. Plenty of rich people live in misery. It is not travel that brings you joy. A lot of people travel merely trying to run away from pain. Health does not guarantee happiness. Many healthy people are miserable and I know some who suffer in illness who are full of joy. Knowing God, knowing you were created with a purpose, knowing there is a plan for you, involvement in a mission that makes you part of something bigger than yourself: these things bring real joy and life. Follow Jesus and He will lead you out of the graveyard.