Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #53

A Time to Live and a Time to Die

**Ecclesiastes 3:2 (NASB)** *2  “A time to give birth and a time to die”*

Good afternoon/evening Church. I want to apologize for not getting our daily devotion out to you sooner. If you have not heard, we got word early this morning that my wife’s father died. So today has been a mixed day of challenge and sadness as well as joy. During times like this, life becomes very real. What I mean by that is life and its brevity become very real. For those of you who have experienced the loss of a close family member, and some who are currently going through the first few days of that kind of loss, you know what I’m talking about.

As much as we know about life from what God has told us, there is never enough preparation for the time when life ends. No matter how much our minds process the loss of someone, we are always either caught off guard or in a place when it is not what is best for the moment. But the Lord never asks our opinion about the timing of a loved one dying. He reserves that right to Himself, and we are to accept what He has done and knows is best. After all He is Lord.

That is what Solomon was recognizing when he wrote our verse for today. Of all the people we know in the Bible, he was the wisest and the wealthiest. He had more than anyone could acquire in a lifetime of achievements. His wealth would make Jeff Bezos’ look like a pauper in comparison. Yet when it was all said and done, Solomon understood that life is filled with events that we cannot change. No person determines their time of arrival on this planet, even with all the technological advances, and no one determines the exact moment of their death. People have killed themselves but that only occurs when the Lord determines their time on earth is over.

There are determined times that God has set for each of us. Try as we may, the Lord determines the outcomes of all of them. **Proverbs 16:9 (NASB)** *9  “The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps*.” And Job said, **Job 14:5 (NASB)** *5  "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass*.” Our responsibility is to make every day count for the Lord. God leaves it up to us to determine how we will spend every day. We can either wallow in our own self pity and hate the life we have, or we can trust the One who gave us life in the beginning of our days and serve Him. It’s up to each person to decide what happens in the middle of the days between his or her birth and the days before his or her death.

I like to think of our days as the dash between the day of our birth and the day of our death. We have this life to live and make the most of it for the Lord. So many people have chosen to spend their days serving themselves. They focus on all they can do and be and forget the most important part - they will not be here forever.

In our times of challenge when loved ones die, let’s remember that there is a definite ending date coming for all of us. We should spend our time wisely and make every day count for the Lord. Afterall, if it weren’t for Him, we would be hopelessly lost eternally in the pit of despair and damnation.

Thank you for your love and prayers for us as we constantly pray for each of you. You are precious to us as our church family and as friends and, like you in times of need, we covet your prayers. We also feel your pain when you go through challenging times and want to help you and pray for you so that you will know that there are people in your lives who love and care for you. Jesus came to give us life and life more abundantly. (John 10:10) Let’s make sure our hope is continually focused on Him and what He had in store for each of us as we put our trust in Him.