

PASTOR'S BLOG : A Good time to think about death

Dear Friends,

Surely there have to be times to think about death. Both death in general and your own death. Holy Week is a good time to think about death.

First of all, death is unavoidable. Every living thing will die. Every human being will die. Whether we are thinking about science or spirituality or morality or ideology or politics; surely it is important to consider death and what death means for a system of science or morality or anything that human beings think about. When we ponder and think, we think about facts and intuitions and what other people have said or are saying - but we rarely think about death. But how can any system of thought or reflection fail to think through what death means? Shouldn't the reality of death critique and shape what we believe and understand?

Second of all, if death is unavoidable, then it must be natural, but we never feel it is natural. Why is it that death always seems unnatural, "out of place". Why is it we feel human death "doesn't belong" or "shouldn't be"? If we do not consider the reality and unavoidability of death, we will not go on to consider our intuition that death is unnatural! Once again, how does our ideology or science account for this? Does our insight about death as unnatural change our science or philosophy?

Third of all, many people today and throughout history believe that death is not final, that life goes on in some form. This, in fact, is further evidence that we do not believe death is natural in some sense. Once again, how does an intuition that life follows death fit in with science and philosophy and morality and spirituality; in other words, with thoughtful thought? The hard-nosed evidence is that human death is final. If it is not, how does science and human thought have to change? Apart from intuition, what evidence is there that human death is not final?

Christians believe that on the original "Good Friday", the women and the soldiers and the enemies of Jesus and the curious and the idle were, in fact, witnessing the death of death in the death of Jesus Messiah. His full and complete entry into death on Friday and His full and complete defeat of death on Sunday is historical evidence that death is not final. It is also evidence that death is both natural and unnatural. God bears witness in human history that death was not meant to be the final word. Jesus told us that if we trust in Him and follow Him we will share in His defeat of death and in His unending life on the other side of death.

George +

THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Vera & Gerald Allen	Alice Hall	Lawrence McPhail
Leslie Barnes	Anne Elizabeth Hibbert	Ned Meredith
Teresa Bourque	Ken, Betty & Keith Jakeman	Bess Reid
Joy Brisley	Esther Landry	Walter Ruban
Ethel Brunet	Bruce Lang	Kalysta Storie-Grezaud
Margery & Robert Dean	Eileen Lemon	Dorothy & Ray Skrypnyk
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WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Are you interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Email info@messiahchurch.ca or call **613.235.0596**. Also check out our website at messiahchurch.ca.

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am Service. For Nursery, you are welcome to bring children to the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, children are invited to "follow the cross" during the third worship song.

The Offering Plate

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the plate go by. If you would like to donate, please make cheques out to "**Church of the Messiah**." If you prefer to donate online, go to www.canadahelps.org, then search "Church of the Messiah Ottawa."

UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUE/ APR 7 **Messiah Prayer Meeting**
7:00pm @ Messiah Office

The House (Home Group)
7:00 pm @148 Augusta St.

Lowertown Home Group
7:00pm @ 110 Nelson St.

WED/ APR 8 **Church on Wednesday**
7:00pm @ uOttawa, Agora

The Wurttemberg Home Group
7:30pm @ 84 Fairmont Ave.

THU/ APR 9 **Church on Thursday**
5:00pm @ Algonquin

Visit churchonthursday.ca for details

SAT/ APR 11 **WAY Authentic Leadership Conference**
9:45 am - 4:15 pm @ Laurentian Leadership Centre /
252 Metcalfe St.

SAT/ APR 18 **Women's Breakfast**
9:30am @ The Bible House/315 Lisgar
Please sign up at the coffee bar after the service or by email:
shirley@messiahchurch.ca

Info: messiahchurch.ca / **613.235.0596** / info@messiahchurch.ca

FIRST WITNESS

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 1-12

FIRST READING: Galatians 1

*Free Bibles are available
at the Besserer door.

I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

Attitudes.

- 1) To revise the Gospel is to erase the Gospel.
- 2) The church did not create the Gospel - the Gospel created the church.
- 3) With the Gospel, God rejects all self-salvation and spiritual boasting.

I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading.

Dear God, I thank You for the good news that Jesus is the Messiah who truly died and who was truly resurrected. I thank You for the good news that grace and peace come from You through Jesus Christ crucified and risen. I thank You for the good news that gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age according to Your will. To You be the glory forever and ever, in Jesus' name. Amen.

I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."
Galatians 1: 3-5

I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to : _____"



Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text?
Email George at george@messiahchurch.ca

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