JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE GRAVE
By Charles Swilling

Text: Job 19:25-27; I Cor. 15:55-58
Intro. We need to read about and study regularly the death and resurrection of Jesus. We need to attend funerals regularly and go to the grave to really get a good picture and perception of life. I read an inscription on a grave marker that contains a lot of truth. "Remember friends as you pass by, as you are so once was I, as I am you soon shall be, so prepare for death and follow me." Funerals and cemeteries are a constant reminder that death is sure and certain.

I. THE VISITATION.
   A. The word.
      1. Death is an appointment we all must make. Hebs. 9:27
      2. What God wants us to realize is that after death comes judgment.
      3. This body will die and must die. The sentence of death is in every one of us.
      4. I have had funerals for a month old infant and an 83 year old.
   B. The why.
      1. Why do people have to die? You can whip out cancer and heart trouble and man will still die.
      2. Paul tells us plainly, "...death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:12
      3. James says that death is the finished work of sin. James 1:14,15
   C. The will.
      1. The Lord told Adam that he would die as a result of his disobedience. Gen. 3
      2. The sin nature is part of us.

II. THE VICTIM.
   A. The fact.
      1. Everyone of us must die. We do not like to think about it or talk about it.
      2. One by one we give up family and friends that die.
      3. At age 12 I had to cope with my father's death. As pastor I have felt sorrow and grief in losing friends and members in death.
   B. The folly.
      1. There are people who do not believe they will die physically.
      2. We feel at times everyone else

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It will not be subjected to God. Rom. 8:6,7
3. The law of death reigns in each of us. Jesus turned death into a victory. I Cor. 15:57

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is going to die, but we aren't.
3. We are constantly made aware of death. It comes unexpectedly, suddenly, surely, and soberingly.

C. The foolishness.
1. Some people who are aware they will die make no preparations for death.
2. Their plans, programs, and purposes include living.
3. Some die and none of the family or friends know of the spiritual condition.
4. You must think on what is beyond death. You must face your Creator in judgment.

III. THE VILLIAN.
A. Satan's activity.
1. The devil was at work in the garden. Eve and Adam fell from their created state because Satan tempted them to sin and they did.
2. The devil is at work doing all that he can to prevent man from getting right with God.
3. Satan cannot damn a soul to hell, but he uses blindness, hardness, etc., to prevent them from being saved.

B. Sin's appeal.
1. Satan entices us to live a life of sin.
2. Some aren't saved because they like a life of sin.
3. Some aren't willing to give up their sins to receive Jesus.

C. Selfish ambitions.
1. People are often too busy living a selfish life to get right with God.
2. They want to accomplish something, live a wild life, etc., before they receive the Lord as Saviour.

IV. THE VANITY.
A. Vanity of possessions.
1. Some people only live to acquire money, possessions, etc.
2. You can't take it with you. Job said he came into this world naked and he would return the same way.

B. Vanity of position.
1. Some want to make a name for themselves. They want a title and recognition.
2. There is no respect of persons with God.

C. Vanity of popularity.
1. Some want to be popular with others. They want to be accepted.
2. The Lord is interested in your being covered by the blood.

D. Vanity of power.
1. Some are interested in physical strength. Some care about authority over others.
2. Jesus will be interested in you knowing Him as Saviour. Matt. 7:21-23

V. THE VALUE.
A. The first.
1. Death teaches you how to live and what is most important.
2. Study Matt. 6:33; Eccl. 12:13

B. The faithful.
1. The faithful saved person is special to the Lord. Mal. 3:16,17
2. Judgment day will be greater and brighter for the saved.

C. The follower.
1. The disciples and followers of the Lord will know more about living. John 10:10
2. Your life will not be wasted and ruined like many are.

D. The future.
1. Life is more fulfilling with the Lord and His way.
2. The believer knows that death is not the end. Heaven and eternity await the redeemed.

VI. THE VICTORY.
A. Victory over the devil.
1. The devil is our adversary. I Pet. 5:8
2. He seeks to destroy every soul through death, deceit, defilement, and defiance.
3. Jesus gives us victory over the devil in this life and the life to come.

B. Victory over death.
1. We are going to die. How sobering it is for a doctor to tell patients and family you have a month to live.
2. The Lord teaches us the sentence of death is upon everyone.
3. The grave gains no victory over the believer in Jesus.

C. Victory over destruction.
1. The unbeliever will die, go to hell, be condemned to the lake of fire forever.
2. God's wrath in judgment will be poured out upon unbelievers. John 3:36; II
Thess. 1:8,9
3. The believer is not condemned.
John 3:18 We have accepted Jesus as Saviour and that canceled sin's penalty.

God is...
1. HE is our shield. Psa. 3:7
2. HE is our lifter up of the head. Psa. 3:3
3. HE is our portion. Psa. 16:5
4. HE is our strength. Psa. 18:1
5. HE is our rock. Psa. 18:2
6. HE is our fortress. Psa. 18:2
7. HE is our buckler. Psa. 18:2
8. HE is our high tower. Psa. 18:2
9. HE is our stay. Psa. 18:18
10. HE is our light. Psa. 27:1
11. HE is our help and helper. Psa. 27:9 30:10
12. HE is our hiding place. Psa. 32:7
13. HE is our refuge. Psa. 46:1
14. HE is our defense. Ps. 59:9

Happiness is a choice
(How to raise a depressed child.)

By Sammy Eldredge

Text: Prov. 22:6
Intro: Remember to Pray!!!!!
Remember the title of the study, "Happiness is a Choice."
The things I am going to share with you are very important. Especially to the young parents with small children at home. We realize that the world is steadily growing worse, but we often times don't realize why.
I am going to share with you some mistakes we have made in the past that should be thought about and not made in your experiences.

I. Things we do to teach our children to be depressed in later life!!!
A. Make him think your love depends on his good actions.
B. Expect him to be completely toilet trained by 12 months.

C. Make him to be overly concerned with time, money and dirt.
D. Talk all the time, but don't ever listen to what your child has to say.
E. Expect perfect etiquette and manners, don't tolerate mistakes.
F. Be critical of people around you, this includes your minister, your neighbors, your husband, (or wife), most importantly your child...!
G. Be domineering.
H. Emphasize morality as a way of being superior to other children, and a way to get to heaven.
I. Don't make any serious commitment to God, and be critical of others who do. (Too much Church)
J. Tell your child his father is Boss, but in reality make him a figure-head.
K. Be a real miser with your money, always saving for the future and not letting the future come.
L. Emphasize the letter of the law rather than the spirit, "No exceptions".
M. Shame your child, for being an individual, "sexually, or individually."

II. Results at the grown up stage:
A. These things make what is called a "Work-a-holic"
B. A Person who expects more of himself than he can in the long-run achieve.
C. He personally realizes his failures.
D. He tries to work hard, harder, and hardest to make everyone else think he is perfect.
E. Failure, either hidden or openly can bring this person to a state of depression. (They cannot maintain their standards, interwoven in their training and life.)

III. Answers: (Read Prov. 16:18-19)
A. Teach God's principles from an early age.
1. God loves you.
2. God knows you are less than perfect. (Sinners)
3. God has proved forgiveness. (Full forgiveness)
4. Confession of sin and mistakes will relieve the pressures we build from guilt.
5. This personal knowledge will help us to live, love, and accept others. (as equals,
brethren)
B. The Principle of Love.
1. Love your God.
2. Love your parents.
3. Love your brethren.
4. Love your enemies.

All of us need to be accepted as what we are and not what someone thinks we should be, except for God. "God knows what we are and the answers for how we can be accepted... Listen to Him.

THE SEED OF THE WOMAN
By Glen Tropp

TEXT: Gen. 3:15

INTRODUCTION:
A. The REVIEW
1. The splendor of man.
2. The schemer against man. John 10:10
3. The sin of man.
4. The shamefulness of sin. (It brings guilt, dishonor, & disgrace)

B. The REASONING - John 10:10a
1. History reveals and records the reality of this verse.
2. Experience verifies the reality of this verse.

C. The REVELATION for our consideration today! Gen. 3:15
1. This promise was given to announce the final punishment on the one who has wrecked and ruined and brought chaos to a beautiful environment and relationship.
2. This promise was given to announce God's love and provisions for us in spite of our dilemma.

D. The REAL issue involved in this conflict deals with each of us.
1. Don't be sidetracked and miss out on God's best for your life.
2. Don't be deceived.

I. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN AS SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF CAIN AND ABEL.
A. The divine declaration-Gen. 4:1-5
B. The diabolical deed-Gen. 4:8-15

II. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN AS SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ISRAELITES:
A. The passage - Exod. 1:7-22
B. The plot - the destruction of the seed of the woman.
C. The providence of God.

III. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN AS SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF ESTHER:
A. The cast
1. Vashti - Ahasuerus - Esther
2. Haman - Mordecai
B. Esther 1-10
B. The conspiracy of Haman
C. The conquering of God's cause--The real issue dealt with the seed of the woman.

IV. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN AS SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF HEROD:
A. The passage - Matt. 2:1-16, Gal. 4:4
B. The problem
C. The perception

CONCLUSION:
A. The devil's attempt to destroy our chances of redemption, happiness, fulfillment & joy.
B. The decision that you're faced with.

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"LORD, DON'T LET ME DIE BEFORE I'M DEAD"
by: Robert A. Brumfield

There's a prayer I've often heard
And no weightier words could be said
"Lord, don't let me die,
Before I am dead!"

Some start out with a bang
As if they will conquer the world
Until some little obstacle flips them
And puts them in a downward whirl.

By depending upon the carnal flesh
Is the reason many fall away
If only we could see the POWER
That could be ours if we would only pray.

Prayer is a sincere desire from man to God
With a promise in His Word to hear
If only we would boldly ask
We'd have victory to overcome fear.

There's so much work that needs to be done
Why should we trifle and wait?
Just do our very best and labor on
And never quit or hesitate.

The devil is a sly ole fox
With 6,000 years of hood-winking men
He plays upon our weaknesses
And makes us live in pretend.

He makes us head for a juniper tree
Where we can have a pity-party
While we are feeling sorry for ourselves
Thinking "no one really loves me!"

So folks, don't be a victim
To be dangled by the devil's thread
Just pray this simple little prayer,
"LORD, DON'T LET ME DIE, BEFORE I'M DEAD"

THE FALLACY OF DEAD FLYS AND FOLLY
By Luther Crawford

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 10:1

Introduction:
A. Notice this verse from the amplified version. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the perfumer to putrefy (and) send forth a vile odor, so does a little folly (in him) who is valued for wisdom, out weigh wisdom and honor."

B. Definition of terms: FALLACY means deceptive appearance, a delusion. Misleading, (fallacious) OINTMENT is a salve made of olive oil and spice. It is considered very valuable. Used as a cosmetic, Eccl. 9:8; Medicine, Mark 6:13; Embalming agent, Luke 23:55-56. FOLLY means thickheadedness, blockhead, a foolish person. Senselessness, heedlessness, self confidence, emptiness. A disregard for Holy things. It is described as immorality, Gen. 34:7; Transgression, Josh. 7:15; Unnatural sin, Judges 19:22:24. It is associated with deception, Prov. 14:8; Gullibility, Prov. 13:16; and disgust, Prov. 26:11. Saints were warned to not return to it, Ps. 85:6; Prophets were guilty of it, Jer. 23:13; Angels were charged with it, Job 4:18; and the Apostles were subject to it, II Cor. 11:1.

C. The theme for this message is what turns people off. (true religion especially)
1. We may as well admit it, there are certain things, and people that turn us off, right? The recent T.V. scandals which involved noted evangelist, probably turned a lot of people off religion altogether. The Jim Jones movement of recent years is no doubt the reason many people are turned off religion, the Bible, and the Church. Likewise the Bakkers, the Swaggarts, and others, because of their lust, and greed, became as "dead flies in the ointment", literally poison, and because of their FALLLACY, (deceptive appearance), and FOLLY, (disregard for Holy things), has probably caused a lot of people to wonder about and question religion altogether. You see these were counted for wisdom, they were looked up to with respect, esteem, and honor. But now their acts of FOLLY, out weighs their wisdom and honor.

D. But what about us? You and me?
What about our religion? What about our lives? Do we turn
others off? Are there dead flies in the ointment? Is there folly in our lives that out weigh wisdom and honor? We claim we are of God. We claim the new birth. We claim to be born again. We claim without reservation, or hesitation, to be THE TRUE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

E. There may be some things we may be guilty of that would turn folks away, some DEAD FLIES IN THE OINTMENT, SOME FOLLY, some FALLACY, (deceptive appearance).

I. WHAT ABOUT INSINCERITY?
A. Insincerity means, simply, not sincere, hypocritical. Not to be trusted. (Remember, we have been given trust of the greatest and most valuable message in the world).
1. Solomon tells of the poor wise man in Eccl. 9:14-18 who by his wisdom, delivered the besieged city, however, his wisdom was despised and his words not appreciated.

2. Not many will appreciate the wisdom of the preacher when he is at his best. Though we have, because of the MESSAGE entrusted to us, to deliver the world from sin, who will listen? Who hath believed our report?

3. Nevertheless, let one of us who are counted and valued to have wisdom, demonstrate a little insincerity, a little folly, let one of us be a little thick-headed, let one of us be a blockhead, and show some senselessness of sort, and it will out weigh all the wisdom and honor we can muster. (This is not only true of the PREACHER, it is true of the DEACON, and all who name the name of the Lord.)

4. Regardless, this is why many say they are turned off, this is why they say they don't go to church. It is because of the INSINCERITY of professed Christians.

B. Hypocrite is a Bible word used many times by Jesus Himself. Read Matthew 23 for example. Hypocrites are not sincere, they just pretend. They are ACTING.
1. This generation sees more acting, and pretending than any previous generation. We see it on the screen. The greater portion of television is "make belief", looks real but it's not. We see it in politics, and religion.

2. Judas Iscariot would not doubt have won an oscar for his performance. He fooled the other disciples. He fooled everyone but Jesus.

3. Are we guilty of saying and not doing? Are we guilty of doing just to be seen of men? Are we just pretending? Are we just playing church?

4. Our insincerity might well be classified as dead flies in the ointment. It could well be the folly that out weighs wisdom and honor.

II. WHAT ABOUT INSIPIDNESS?
A. Insipid means destitute of taste, deficient in spirit, life. The church is the salt of the earth. Salt is a preserver, strength. If salt loses its saltiness, it loses its strength and nothing will salt it. It becomes tasteless and powerless.

B. We need to be the SALTY CHRISTIANS, Christian living can and should be SPIRITUALLY TASTY.
1. Our speech is to be with grace, seasoned with salt. Col. 4:6. - tasty.

2. Our singing ought to be tasty spiritually. Our preaching ought to be seasoned, tasty, spiritual food for thirsty, hungry souls.

3. If however, our lives, our homes, our churches are void of spiritual taste, our insipidness could well be classified as dead flies in the ointment.

C. Our deficiency in spirit (life) could well be noted as dead flies in the ointment, turning others off.
1. Could we be deficient in STICKABILITY SPIRIT? That hang in there, (hold fast) spirit.
   b. Man is to cleave to the Lord, Jos. 23:8, and to that which is good. Rom. 12:9.
   c. When people come and go they have no stickability spirit, and that could turn people off.

2. Could there be a lack of SACRIFICAL SPIRIT?
   a. Sacrifice in our living? Sacrifice in our giving?
   b. If we are unwilling to
sacrifice for the cause of Christ, it may well be the cause of others being turned off, and away from Christ.

3. Could there be a deficiency in S.O.S. SPIRIT?
   a. The spirit to help others. Including missions, local, state and world wide. Paul received an S.O.S. call, "come over and help us". Acts 16:9
   b. May the Lord's churches never become like a private social club, and become satisfied with a small circle of family and friends. It's true, some churches are satisfied with just family, and don't want anyone else, how sad! How sad not to desire to help others. This could be the means of turning the OTHERS off.

I. FACING JESUS "THE SON OF GOD:"

A. Foretold by the God Inspired prophet Isaiah
   1. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL."
   2. 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a SON IS GIVEN..."

B. Jesus was OWNED BY THE FATHER:
   Matt. 3:17; 17:5

C. Jesus prays to God as HIS FATHER:
   1. John 17:1,5, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"
   "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

D. Hear Peter say it! Matt. 16:16
E. Phil. 2:9-11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
   1. Somewhere---EACH ONE WILL BOW AND CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD! Why not now and reap the benefits???

II. FACING JESUS, "THE SENT OF GOD:"

A. To "Redeem:"
   1. Gal. 4:4-5
   2. John 1:29
3. Those in heaven testify: Rev. 5:9

B. To "Set Free:"
1. Gal. 5:1
2. John 8:36
3. Romans 8:1-2
4. Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

C. To "SAVE:" - John 3:17

III. FACING JESUS, "THE SINNER'S SUFFICIENT, SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE:"
A. We must face the REALITY OF SIN! (OUR SINS:)
B. We must face the REALITY OF MEETING GOD WITH OUR SINS!
C. God hath provided in Jesus AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE!
   1. Isaiah 53:6
   2. Heb. 9:26 + I Peter 2:24
   3. Isaiah 53:10-11 "Yet IT PLEASED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM; he hath put him to grief: WHEN THOU SHALT MAKE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. HE SHALL SEE THE TRAVAIL OF HIS SOUL, AND SHALL BE SATISFIED; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES."

D. BELIEVING SINNERS ARE "FORGIVEN, CLEANSED IN HIS BLOOD, AND MADE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FATHER IN JESUS. Eph. 1:6

E. Believing sinners are CLOTHED IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST. II Cor. 5:21

F. Jesus FINISHED THE JOB GOD SENT HIM TO DO in sacrificing Himself!
   1. From His cross: John 19:30 "IT IS FINISHED!"
   2. Heb. 10:12-14: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For BY ONE OFFERING HE HATH PERFECTED FOREVER them that are sanctified."

IV. FACING JESUS "THE SINNER'S SAVIOUR:"
A. He saves from "SIN!" Matt. 1:21
   1. He bore the penalty, punishment of our sins!
   2. He paid the price of our redemption!

3. He put away sin by the sacrifice of himself!

B. He saves "FREELY!" Eph. 2:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 6:23

C. He saves "FOREVER!" Heb. 7:25, I John 5:11; I John 5:13; John 10:28

D. He saves "FOR"
   1. The GLORY OF GOD. I Cor. 6:20
   2. The SERVICE OF GOD! Eph. 2:10
   3. For Heaven!

V. FACING JESUS, "THE SINNER'S SOLUTION:"
A. Unbelieving sinners are spiritually "DEAD." Jesus came to give "LIFE!" Eph. 2:1; John 10:10

B. In our natural-sinful state "THERE IS NONE THAT UNDERSTANDETH, THERE IS NONE THAT SEEKETH AFTER GOD." Rom. 3:11
   1. God the Father OUT OF HIS GRACE brings salvation in reach of one and all. Titus 2:11; Romans 5:5
   2. Jesus the SON IS THE WAY!
      a. John 14:6
      b. Acts 4:12
      c. He LIGHTS THE PATH OF EVERY MAN! John 1:9; II Cor. 4:6

3. The Holy Spirit CONVICTS THE SINNER OF HIS NEED and produces the SPIRIT BIRTH TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS! John 16:8; I John 5:1

VI. FACING JESUS "THE SAINT'S SECURITY:"
A. I John 5:11-13
B. John 10:28
C. Ps. 37:23-24
D. Heb. 7:25

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