

Study Guide for Oct. 22nd, 2000. Series: Death in Christ. Message #2: Preparing for the Final Exam.

READING GUIDE:

DAY 1: Deut. 32:48-52, chapter 34

DAY 2: Luke 13

DAY 3: II Timothy 4

DAY 4: James 4

DAY 5: Rev. 12

DAY 6: Psalm 39

1. Think of a time you were well prepared for an exam or a responsibility. Now compare that with a time you approached an exam or responsibility feeling unprepared. Describe the different feelings.

2. Throughout the Bible, the image is given that human life is brief and fleeting. What images are used to describe **life** in the following passages that communicate this reality?

A. Psalm 39:4-5:

B. Psalm 90:3-6:

C. Psalm 144:3-4:

D. James 4:14-15:

What experience or observation has driven home the reality of the brevity of life for you?

3. Jesus response to information about some tragic deaths is found in Luke 13:1-5. Read then answer...

A. Was any one person's sin directly the cause of these tragedies?

B. What is Jesus admonition in light of the possibility of unexpected fatal tragedy?

C. James 4:15 reads, "Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." Apply that instruction to some specific plan or goal you have for the upcoming year.

4. Consider the following Biblical characters from the perspective of "the work" God had given them to accomplish. How do you think they felt as they prepared to die and leave their earthly life?

A. Moses: (see Deut. 3:23-28, 32:48-52, & 34)

B. Simeon: (see Luke 2:25-35)

C. Paul: (see Acts 20:22-24, 26:19-23, & II Tim. 4:6-8)

D. What "work" do you sense God has given you to accomplish in this life? How would you feel if you had to leave it now?

5. While none of us know the day of our departure from this life, we should daily strive to be faithful and obedient. Reflect on the following verse of Scripture. How can you please God today?

"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it."