

# Schooled | Expire-ment Living

## Day 1: The Leveling Truth

**Reading: Ecclesiastes 2:14-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

Death is the great equalizer. Solomon observed that the wise and the fool share the same fate, and no amount of achievement, reputation, or accumulated wisdom exempts anyone from it. This truth is not meant to discourage ambition or effort, but to reorient it. When we recognize that death comes for everyone, we are freed from the exhausting pursuit of building a legacy on our own terms. Our days are not ours to hoard. They are entrusted to us. The question is not whether we will die, but whether we are living with that reality honestly before God. ***What are you currently building your sense of significance upon? How might an honest acknowledgment of your mortality reshape your priorities today?***

***Practical Application: Write down one thing you are pouring excessive energy into for the sake of your own legacy. Bring it before God in prayer and ask Him to reorder your motivations.***

## Day 2: The Wisdom of the House of Mourning

**Reading: Ecclesiastes 7:2-4; Psalm 90:10-12**

Solomon makes a striking claim: there is more wisdom to be found at a funeral than at a party. This is not an endorsement of morbidity. It is an invitation to clarity. The psalmist prays that God would teach us to number our days so that we might gain a heart of wisdom. Perspective gained at the graveside tends to cut through the noise of lesser concerns. Regrets surface. Priorities sharpen. Relationships suddenly matter more than schedules. The house of mourning has a way of reminding us what is real. The goal is to carry that clarity into ordinary life, not just reserve it for moments of loss. ***Think of a time when grief or loss gave you unusual clarity about what truly matters. What did you see then that you may have since forgotten?***

***Practical Application: Spend five minutes today sitting quietly with the reality that your life is temporary. Ask God to give you a heart of wisdom that reflects that reality in how you spend your time this week.***

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## Day 3: Freedom From the Fear of Death

**Reading: Hebrews 2:14-15; Hebrews 9:27-28; John 5:24**

The fear of death is not simply a fear of the unknown. At its deepest level, it is often a fear of accountability, a sense that something awaits us on the other side of the grave for which we are not prepared. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus shared in our humanity specifically so that through His death He might break the power of the one who held the power of death and free those enslaved by its fear. He did not come simply to comfort us about death. He came to disarm it. Because He bore our sin and our judgment upon Himself, those who trust in Him are no longer condemned. The fear loses its grip. ***In what ways does the fear of death, whether conscious or subtle, influence how you live? How might a deeper trust in Christ's finished work begin to loosen that grip?***

***Practical Application: Meditate on John 5:24 today, which describes how those who hear and believe have already crossed over from death to life. Write a prayer of trust in response to what Jesus has accomplished on your behalf.***

## Day 4: Learning to Live in the Present

**Reading: Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; Ecclesiastes 8:15; James 4:13-14**

One of the most unexpected lessons Solomon draws from meditating on death is a deep appreciation for the present moment. He repeatedly returns to the theme of eating, drinking, finding satisfaction in one's work, and receiving these things as gifts from God. James reminds us that life is a mist, appearing briefly and then vanishing. When we truly absorb this, ordinary moments become extraordinary gifts. The meal shared with someone you love, the work accomplished with integrity, the laughter of a child, these are not distractions from spiritual life. They are expressions of it. Numbering our days teaches us to stop waiting for life to begin and to receive the one we already have. ***Are you currently living in the present, or are you waiting for better conditions before you allow yourself to be fully engaged with your life? What is one good thing in front of you today that you have been overlooking?***

***Practical Application: Choose one ordinary moment today, a meal, a conversation, a task, and receive it intentionally as a gift from God. Resist the urge to rush through it or document it. Simply be present in it.***

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## Day 5: The Death of Death

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:24-27; Philippians 1:21; Revelation 1:17-18**

The final word does not belong to death. Paul writes that the last enemy to be destroyed is death itself. The word he uses can be translated as terminated. One day, Jesus will terminate death permanently and completely. He who holds the keys of death and the grave, as He declares in Revelation, will not hold them indefinitely as a reminder of what once was. He holds them as the One who has conquered and who will one day eliminate the very category of death from existence. This is the horizon toward which the follower of Christ lives. And it is this hope that made it possible for Paul to say with full conviction that for him, to live was Christ and to die was gain. Death is not the end of the story. It is, for those in Christ, the last chapter before everything begins. ***How does the promise of death's ultimate destruction change the way you think about your own mortality?***

***How does it change the way you think about those you have lost?***

***Practical Application: Share the hope you have in Christ with one person this week. It does not need to be a formal conversation. It may simply be living in a way that reflects someone who is not enslaved to fear, and being ready to explain why when someone notices.***