

## 8 Reasons for Death – 1 Reason for Life

### ➤ Too Stubborn

<sup>8</sup> Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, <sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

#### Jeremiah 11:6-8

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. <sup>7</sup> For I solemnly warned your fathers when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. <sup>8</sup> Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not."

### ➤ Too Greedy

<sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. <sup>11</sup> If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; <sup>12</sup> like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; <sup>13</sup> we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; <sup>14</sup> throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"—

#### James 5:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup> You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

### ➤ Too Foolish

<sup>15</sup> my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, <sup>16</sup> for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, <sup>18</sup> but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. <sup>19</sup> Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

### **Romans 1:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

#### ➤ **Too Busy**

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; <sup>21</sup> at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: <sup>22</sup> "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

### **Luke 12:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

*The unbelieving heart says: some other time, but not now; some other place, but not here; some other person, but not me. - Tozer*

#### ➤ **Too Hard**

<sup>23</sup> If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. <sup>24</sup> Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, <sup>25</sup> because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

### **Hebrews 3:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall

away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

### ➤ Too Cynical

<sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, <sup>27</sup> when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

**Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

### **Matthew 27:27-44**

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. <sup>28</sup> And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

### ➤ Too Late

<sup>28</sup> Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. <sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup> would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,

### **Luke 13:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?"

<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

#### **➤ Too Blind**

<sup>31</sup> therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. <sup>32</sup> For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

### **Romans 1:28-32**

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

#### **➤ Too Lucky**

<sup>33</sup> but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

### **1 John 2:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

<sup>4</sup> Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

*You cannot sin and not suffer from it. It just can't be done. I spent a great deal of my life trying to sin and escape my conscience. One of the things I like best about being a Christian is the way that I suffer when I sin. The correction God brings into my life not only straightens me out but reminds me I am His. – Ted, sailmaker from Sausalito*