

Why Start With Death?

Here's why Pastor Ben does: Because the _____ does.
 Another way to consider it is this: for me to live: someone had to die. In fact, in the spiritual sense, I have to die to sinful self (daily) if I want to live in Christ. You can't separate death from the Gospel, because it is intricately tied to the plan of salvation.

 **GENESIS 2:17 (KJV) — WHAT GOD SAID:**
 "...For in the day that thou latest thereof, thou shalt _____."

NOTE: In Hebrew, when you want to emphasize something, you repeat it. In this text, the word for death is repeated.

<p>מֹת מֹת</p> <p><i>you will die dying</i></p>	<p>GOD</p>
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The Bible defines DEATH as a return to _____.

 **GENESIS 3:3 (KJV) — WHAT EVE SAID:**
 "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, 'Ye shall not _____ of it, neither shall you _____ it, lest ye _____.'"

<p>תָּמַתְךָ</p> <p><i>you die</i></p>	<p>EVE</p>
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Notice in the example above right, Eve uses a variation of the word "death," but it's not the same as what God uses.

 **GENESIS 3:4 (KJV) — WHAT SATAN SAID:**
 "And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall _____.'"

Note: The serpent crosses the words of God and Eve to create his own, new reality.

<p>לֹא-מֹת תָּמַתְךָ</p> <p><i>you shall die die not</i></p>	<p>GOD</p>
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What Satan says is "You shall not surely die." But more literally he said, "You will not _____ die."

Look at the word "PERISH" in John 3:16. What does it mean?
 The Greek word translated "perish" carries with it the connotation of a _____.

In fact, the word occurs 17 times in the New Testament. Most of the time it is translated as "destroying" or "being destroyed." But the prefix of the word is an intensifier, rendering the translation as "_____ or _____ destroy."

You see, God was speaking plainly in Genesis 2:16-17:
 _____ leads to _____ a death that is _____ and _____.

Is it helpful to hear this news about death?

When we remember that we caught in the midst of a war between God and Satan, we understand death in a new light. Romans 6:23 reminds us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. And Romans 3:23 reminds us that we've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We're all destined for eternal death EXCEPT for the Gospel of Jesus!

<p> ROMANS 6:23</p> <p>"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."</p>	<p> ROMANS 3:23</p> <p>"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."</p>
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The longer you dwell on the idea that death is eternal, the more precious John 3:16 becomes. For God loved us so much, that He was willing to give His only Son to die that eternal death, so we could live eternally with Him.