

**“How the Wise Dies Just Like the Fool!”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Death is not natural, nor is it dignified - but if you're in Christ, it's defeated and will one day meet its own death**

1. Ecclesiastes leads us to some chilling certainties about death under the sun (vv.12-17)

• (vv.12-15)

• (v.16)

• (v.17)

2. Biblical theology unfolds the glorious realities of death under the Son (Genesis 2:16-17→Revelation 21:4)

• (Romans 6:23a)

• (Romans 6:23b)

• (1 Corinthians 15:20-57)

**Next Week: Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 - “All the Toil of My Labors”**

**MEFC Community Group Study Questions**  
For the week of October 18th-24th

**Getting Started**

1. In the first sentence of the final chapter of his magisterial biography on pastor-theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), historian George Marsden wrote that: “Edwards spent his whole life preparing to die.”<sup>1</sup> This is a remarkable statement considering that it was written about a man who lived a fuller life and made a greater impact in this world than many people before or since. How is it that a man who lived so well purposely spent so much of his time reflecting on his own death?

**Digging Deeper**

2. When he was 20 years old, Edwards compiled a list of 70 resolutions for his Christian life. These aims included such subjects as: his overall life mission, good works, time management, relationships, suffering, character, and various aspects of his spiritual life.<sup>2</sup> Have you ever made any resolutions? What kinds? Have you stuck to them? Why or why not?

*Of Edwards’ 70 resolutions, 13 of them are related to death and dying. Read through each of these, pondering and discussing them together as a group. Are there any that you find particularly wise or helpful? Which ones? Why? Might you adopt them for yourself? A word to the wise...savor these, and read them slowly.*

“Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God’s help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ’s sake. Remember to read over these Resolutions once a week...”<sup>3</sup>

#6 - “Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.”

#7 - “Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.”

#10 - “Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death.”

#17 - “Resolved, when I feel pain, to think of the pains of martyrdom, and of hell.”

#18 - “Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had down when I come to die.”

#19 - “Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.”

#22 - “Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I

---

1 George Marsden, Jonathan Edwards: A Life. Yale University Press: New Haven, CT. 2003. p.490.

2 For a complete list of his resolutions grouped into these categories, see:  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards> . Accessed 10/16-20 @ 1pm.

3 <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards> .

possibly can, with all the power, might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.”

#43 - “Resolved, never henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were any way my own, but entirely and altogether God’s, agreeable to what is to be found in Saturday, Jan. 12, 1723.” (several months before the completion of his list of resolutions)

#50 - “Resolved, I will act so as I think I shall judge would have been best, and most prudent, when I come into the future world.”

#51 - “Resolved, that I will act so, in every respect, as I think I shall wish I had done, if I should at last be damned.”

#52 - “I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age.”

#55 - “Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and hell’s torments.”