

## 12. Sample Roof Crasher Lesson: Death and Living

We've been talking about the virtues of a Roof Crasher quite a bit. This week, I am going to depart a bit and talk about death!

Does anyone have a near-death experience? Share a personal story (if you have one) when you came close to death.

It's interesting to be close to death. It makes you think and consider life and life's purpose and meaning.

The Bible talks a lot about life and its brevity. Have someone read the following two passages:

- Psalm 89:47
- Ecclesiastes 7:1–9

The Bible also talks about life and its purpose and meaning. Have someone read the following passages:

- Acts 20:24
- 2 Corinthians 4:17–18
- Esther 4:16
- Philippians 1:21

What are some other passages you can think of? Let the group respond. The following are some passages you might want to share:

- Solomon (meaningless, meaningless)
- Knit together in my mother's womb

When we face the reality of our mortality, it should cause us to think about how we are living that life. Tombstones have the dates listed of when someone was born and when he or she died. Between is a little dash that represents life.

They also have some things written that represent his or her life—usually written by family. If I had died a month ago, Tracey, Westley, and Samara would have had to think about what to write on my gravestone. So here is an exercise for you. Below is a blank tombstone. I want you to write on it what you hope your family would put.

But before that, I have some fun examples to share with you.

Death in the West  
Here lies Lester Moore.  
Four slugs  
From a forty-four.  
No Les  
No More.

Here lays Butch.  
We planted him raw.  
He was quick on the trigger  
But slow on the draw.

Silver City, Nevada  
Here lies a man named Zeke.  
Second fastest draw in Cripple Creek.

Toothless Nell (Alice Chambers)  
Killed 1876 in a dance hall brawl.  
Her last words: "Circumstances led me to this end."

Culver City  
He called  
Bill Smith  
A liar.

Dentist Brown  
Is filling his last cavity.

Wimborne, England  
Epitaph on a huge boulder on the grave of a doctor:  
This is on me. L

On a watchmaker's tombstone:  
Here lies in horizontal position the outside case of dear George Routleight, watchmaker, whose abilities in that line were an honor to his profession—integrity was the mainspring, and prudence the regulator of all the actions of his life. Humane, generous, and liberal, his hand never stopped until he had relieved distress. So nicely regulated were all his movements that he never went wrong, except when set a-going by people who did not know his key; even then he was easily set right again. He had the art of disposing his time so well that the hours glided away in one continued round of pleasure and delight, till an unlucky moment put a period to his existence. He departed this life November 14, 1802, aged fifty-seven. Wound up in hopes of being taken in hand by his Maker and being thoroughly cleansed, repaired, and set a-going in the world to come. St Petrock's Church, Lyford, Devon, England

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada  
Tears cannot restore her—  
therefore I weep.

Kilmurry Churchyard, Ireland  
Here lies  
Ezekiel Aikle

Age 102  
The Good  
Die Young.

On a hypochondriac's grave:  
See, I told you  
I was SICK!

Some epitaphs were meant to warn the living from committing the same mistake as the deceased.

Here lies the body  
of Jonathan Blake.  
Stepped on the gas  
Instead of the brake.

Reader, I've left this world, in which  
I had a world to do,  
Sweating and fretting to get rich:  
Just such a fool as you.

Looked up the elevator shaft  
to see if the car  
was on the way down.  
It was.

Blown upward  
out of sight:  
He sought the leak  
by candlelight.

Some of these are pretty funny, but let's take Solomon's advice while we are living and take it to heart. So write what you hope your family and friends would put on your tombstone.

