

The Secret to Dying Well

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, December 3rd, Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Christians die well when they have learned to number their days, have fixed their hope in a heavenly Promise Land that won't fade away, and have labored to leave a strong and enduring gospel legacy behind them.

I. Blessing of Joseph's Sons – Read Genesis 47:29-48:22 and answer the following questions.

- A. Why do you think Jacob makes Joseph promise to buy him in the Promise Land?
- B. What do you think is the significance of Jacob adopting Manasseh and Ephraim? Since these are Joseph's two sons, what does it mean that Joseph receives a double blessing?
- C. As you think about Jacob prioritizing Ephraim over Manasseh, are there other examples of the younger being prioritized over the older? How does this point forward to Jesus?
- D. In what ways is it clear that Jacob desires a gospel legacy more than anything?

II. Blessing of Jacob's Sons – Read Genesis 49:1-28 and answer the following questions.

- A. How should we interpret Jacob's blessings to his sons? Are they wishful thinking for the future or more like prophecy? How does Genesis 49:1 help us answer that question?
- B. For what reasons do Reuben, Simeon, and Levi receive an anti-blessing?
- C. In what ways are Jacob's blessings to Judah fulfilled in David and Solomon?
- D. In what ways are Jacob's blessings to Judah ultimately fulfilled in Jesus?

III. Burial of Jacob's Body – Read Genesis 49:29-50:14 and answer the following questions.

- A. What stands out to you about Jacob's focus on the Promise Land for his burial location?
- B. In what ways does Joseph and his brothers demonstrate their faithfulness to Jacob's request to be buried in the Promise Land? To what lengths do they go to fulfill their promise?
- C. Read Psalm 90:9-12. As you think about these verses and the reality that life is like a vapor, how critical is longing for heaven if you desire to die well in the Lord?
- D. What are some practical things that you must be doing if you are going to succeed in leaving a gospel legacy behind you when you die?