

1. Welcome!
2. Today we finish a teaching series on RELATING that we began back in May
 - a. Looking at key relational aspects of our lives
 - i. And how the Good News of the Gospel plays out in every facet
 - b. Catch up on any you've missed any time at tallgrass.church
 - i. Video, audio, teaching notes, power point
 - c. In brief, we've looked at Relating to:
 - i. The Gospel
 - ii. Yourself
 - iii. God
 - iv. Discipleship
 - v. Dads
 - vi. Friends
 - vii. One Another
 - viii. Technology
 - ix. Family
 - x. Culture
 - i. Our Sexuality
 - ii. Work
 - iii. Church
 - iv. Our Enemy
 - v. Money
 - vi. The Bible
 - vii. Our Emotions
 - viii. Relating Graciously
 - ix. Relating to THIRSTY SOULS (soul care)
3. We are truly REALTIONAL beings, made for deep integrated living
 - a. For connection with God, ourselves, and others
 - b. And ever since mankind's rebellion in the Garden, we're instead become broken and disintegrated
 - c. But GOD is hard at work to heal and restore, to reconnect us not only to himself, but to ourselves, and one another
 - i. So we can live as we were meant to!
 - ii. Because he loves us
 - iii. More than any of us fully know or understand
4. Today we're excited to wrap up and kind of bring all these together by talking about RELATING FOR LIFE
 - a. Relating well in every area of our life IN LIGHT OF our life, death, and hope of Resurrection through JC
5. We're also pumped to have a special guest tonight who will help us as we consider Relating for Life
 - a. More on that in a minute
6. The oldest Psalm is most likely Psalm 90, written by Moses about 3500 years ago.
 - a. In verse 10 he writes: Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
 - i. Jeanne Calment, oldest confirmed human, died 1997 at age 122
 - ii. But the average lifespan is still right there in the 80 year range.
 - b. Then in verse 12, in light of that, he asks God to:
-- Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
7. The HEART of wisdom (not just knowing FACTS, but knowing HOW TO LIVE and RELATE WELL) includes NECESSARILY understanding the reality of our life:
 - a. it's boundedness. Finiteness. 70-80 years
8. In our culture, we don't like to think much about our mortality
 - a. But the reality is, none of us are getting out of here alive
 - i. There are only 2 sure things in life, death and taxes
 - ii. And we avoid BOTH like the plague
 - b. In fact, studies show that contemplating and discussing death, numbering our days, makes us:
 - i. Less afraid of death
 - ii. Less defensiveness of our worldview

- iii. More generous
- iv. More kind
- v. More loving
- vi. Higher value on human life
- vii. Higher value on relationships
- viii. ***The Atlantic: "What Good is Thinking About Death?"***
<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/05/what-good-is-thinking-about-death/394151/>

9. Maybe that's why God's Word speaks frequently about life and death, and encourages us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom

10. Because, no matter what you believe about life after death, it completely affects HOW YOU LIVE NOW

- a. If there's no afterlife, or if there's no connect or continuity between this life and the next, then we should live for self NOW
 - i. Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die
- b. But if, IF, there's an offer of life after death, and if that life is intimately connected with how we live now, then there's nothing MORE IMPORTANT

11. Today to help us think and talk about these things, we're privileged to have with us my wife's grandfather, Al Lyle

- a. Come on up
- b. Interview
 - i. Al, how old will you be in January, your next birthday?
 - 1. 96
 - ii. Tell us a little about yourself
 - 1. You're Jenn Geldart's grandfather
 - 2. When and where were you born?
 - 3. What was it like when you were a boy
 - 4. How many girls did you date?
 - iii. When did you decide to follow Jesus?
 - 1. What drew you to Him?
 - iv. What's it been like to follow Christ through the different seasons of your life?
 - v. 15 years ago, you underwent emergency triple bypass heart surgery. How did that effect your outlook on life?
 - vi. You recently lost your wife, Francis, of many years, after a long and difficult battle with Dementia
 - 1. What was that season like, as you cared for her every need, and she slipped away
 - 2. What did that do to your faith?
 - vii. What's it like being in the final years of your life?
 - viii. What does the closeness of death do to your perspective on things?
 - 1. How has your perspective on life and what's important changed over the years?
 - ix. What role does your relationship with Jesus play in your life now?
 - 1. How has your relationship with JC changed through the years?
 - x. How has the hope of life after death practically effected your life?
 - xi. What's helped you continue to follow and relate with Jesus over the long haul of your life?
 - xii. If you could give a word or two of encouragement or perspective to us today, most of us in our 20s and 30s, what would it be?
- c. **Hymn: The Love of God**
 - i. Written 1917 (7 yrs before Al was born)

12. Because of God's great love for us, he has not been a good American and avoided conversation about life and death

13. The Bible's teaching is consistent start to finish about our lives:

- a. Because of our sin and rebellion, this life is relatively brief
- b. But Death is not the end

- c. God has moved HEAVEN AND EARTH to make a way for us to live AGAIN, to restore what was lost, and renew what was broken
 - i. Romans 6:5 → Speaking about the effect of Jesus' death and resurrection for us
 - ii. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 15:53–55
 - iv. "For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ...then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'"
- d. Jesus came not only to offer us the forgiveness of our sins
 - i. BUT ALSO real, ETERNAL LIFE THAT STARTS NOW
 - ii. Reconnecting us to life, in every area, for the long haul!
- e. And for those who follow HIM, who TRUST IN HIM, they will literally and physically come back to life after they die → RESURRECTION!
 - i. Into a new PHYSICAL body that no longer is diseased by death and sickness and pain or sin
 - ii. INTO A RENEWED EARTH, real and physical, where heaven and earth finally merge,
 - 1. And God lives with us. Forever
 - iii. And we not only live in relationship with God, but also with ONE ANOTHER
 - 1. Reunited with others before us who have also trusted Jesus
- f. The life you've ALWAYS WANTED, the life you were MADE FOR
 - i. The home you've yearned for all your days
 - ii. The Garden is back, but magnified a billion times over
 - iii. We don't turn into angels, and float around in the clouds strumming harps
 - 1. That's nowhere in the Bible
- g. Instead, what's in store for us will be a restoration and an amplification of what we were made for! An embodied life in a physical world – most likely THIS EARTH, renewed – to a life that will quite familiar in many ways
 - i. Parties and fire pits
 - ii. Conversations that linger with friends
 - 1. None of the bad, and all of the good
 - 2. Relationships that remained broken finally able to work to FULL restoration
 - a. Healing!
 - iii. Adventure, Innovation, Discovery
 - iv. Even culture and art and society
 - 1. Human stuff. The stuff we were made for! But w/o the death, sin, and sadness
- h. The Real, Good, Life
- i. And I'll be there
 - i. Me
 - ii. And so will you, if you trust in Jesus
 - 1. In fact, it's been God's rescue plan from the beginning
 - iii. Job, likely the oldest book in the bible
 - 1. In ch 19, considering his own death, he remarks – DO YOU CATCH IT?:
 - ²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet^[e] in^[f] my flesh I will see God;
 - ²⁷I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!
- j. There's real continuity between our lives is side of death and on the other
- k. It'll be ME, the real me. ME and no other.

- i. Even though my body will die
 - ii. I'll see god, IN MY FLESH
 - iii. I and no other
- l. Oh how I can say with Job that my heart yearns for this more and more with each passing year
- m. Since, then, we look to Jesus have a REAL HOPE of eternal life that starts now, and continues on thru death into resurrected, renewed life, we would be WISE to live our days accordingly
- n. To NUMBER OUR DAYS and live in wisdom
 - i. Not perfection, not under the weight of earning → which is indeed the tyranny of death
 - ii. But instead in humble and grateful HOPE, because of what JESUS HAS ALREADY DONE FOR US, as one who was once blind, but now can see
 - iii. What is real, what matters, and how our days and words, and choices matter
- o. So that we can live lives of joyful, deeply peace-filled purpose, strengthened by vision of eternity, and empowered by the great and confident hope of resurrection
 - i. This vision is what will enable us to make progress in these many areas of relating
- p. So, in light of all this, Paul tells Timothy in 1 Tim 4:

train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
- q. We can lean in
 - i. Big Kairos moments
 - 1. Special "the right time" moments where we seize the opportunity
 - ii. Small, seemingly insignificant choices to live and love and serve and give day in and day out
 - iii. Confident that these are training days
 - iv. And how we live NOW matters ... both now AND into eternity
 - 1. In light of the eternal life that is ours through Christ
 - 2. In light of the resurrection life to come
 - 3. We can engage with wisdom in each of these areas of relating we've talked about!
 - a. How would confidence in the resurrection affect how you relate to your family, neighbors?
 - b. Fellow Believers
 - i. Greater sense of urgency AND PATIENCE with people
 - ii. More commitment to the Church, since you know you'll be with these ppl for eternity! 😊
 - c. Your sexuality
 - i. A much HIGHER view of your body, give you resolve to honor your body
 - d. Money?
 - i. Might seem simultaneously less and More important
 - ii. Less because you don't have to rely on money for life-security
 - iii. MORE because you realize how these are stewardship training days
 - v. These are TRAINING DAYS
 - 1. We're becoming who we'll be → Who we REALLY ARE

14. ⁵And he who was seated on the throne [JESUS] said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Rev 21:5

15. Be sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Phil 1:6

16. PRAY!

17. How about you? Q&R

- a. How would you live differently if you knew you'd die in three months?
- b. How could a firmer hope in resurrection empower your life now?
- c. What next steps of faith do you sense God calling you to in response to this?
- d. Any questions for AI?