

BY DESIGN



Out of the Ashes

(Study Guide taken from the message on Sunday – November 6, 2016)

“For you were made from the dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19 NLT

After we took the eternal plunge into sin we, the human race, are left with the need for healing. We lost our intimacy with our Creator, we lost our blessed environment for the best of life, we lost all that was good and found life to be a burden. We left the garden with a stark reminder that we are dust and will return to our roots – so to speak.

Since the original sin, we all now live in decaying bodies, with digressing minds and deceptive hearts. At first, it must have seemed like our severance from all-things-good came to an abrupt end with very little hope. And, by the way, doesn't life tend to feel that way now? Boy, this sin concept is pretty brutal.

But it's not forever! Unless you have no desire for a relationship with God... Well, think on that for a while.

So, what happens to our “ashy” state of existence? What is our defining purpose in this life?

Once again, we'll visit the image of our earthly body and see how God can use this dusty thing.

OUR BODY IS DECAYING

Read the following verses of scripture and indicate what our bodily purpose is to be while in this sinful condition.

1. **Romans 6:13**

2. **1 Corinthians 6:14-20**

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How can we discipline ourselves to do what is right?

3. **1 Corinthians 9:23-27**

OUR MINDS ARE DIGRESSING

What is the plan for our mind as we live for Christ?

4. **Romans 8:5-8**

5. **James 1:5-8; Isaiah 26:3**

6. **Matthew 6:31-33**

7. **Matthew 15:18-20 | Psalm 51:8-11**

Romans 8:1-4

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power^[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you^[b] from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature.^[c] So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.