



Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- When you realised the topic of the sermon would be 'death', how did you feel? What emotional response does the thought of death prompt within you?
- Lew spoke of two cultural instincts at the realisation that we will die; denial and avoidance. Which resonates with you the most? Where have you seen these in others (and your own) lives?

- Have you ever experienced what Tolstoy (and the Preacher) describe? When was this, and how did it affect your life?
- If the resurrection did not happen, our faith is in vain, Paul says (v. 14). How would your life change if you truly lived as though death has been defeated, rather than living in fear of loss or the future?
- Paul describes our current bodies as seeds and our future bodies as glorious (v. 42-44). How should the promise of a transformed, immortal body change how you view your physical struggles, limitations, and aging and sense of hevel-ity? (*Hevel* (הבל) is a Hebrew word meaning "vapor," "breath," or "smoke,")
- Read 1 Corinthians 15 aloud (don't worry too much about the baptism for the dead bit... we'll cover that in another sermon!) Notice the progression and crescendo; from the promise-fulfilled gospel to resurrection victory. Take it slow, and allow your heart to be captured by the future resurrection. Nothing is in vain in Christ! Hallelujah!