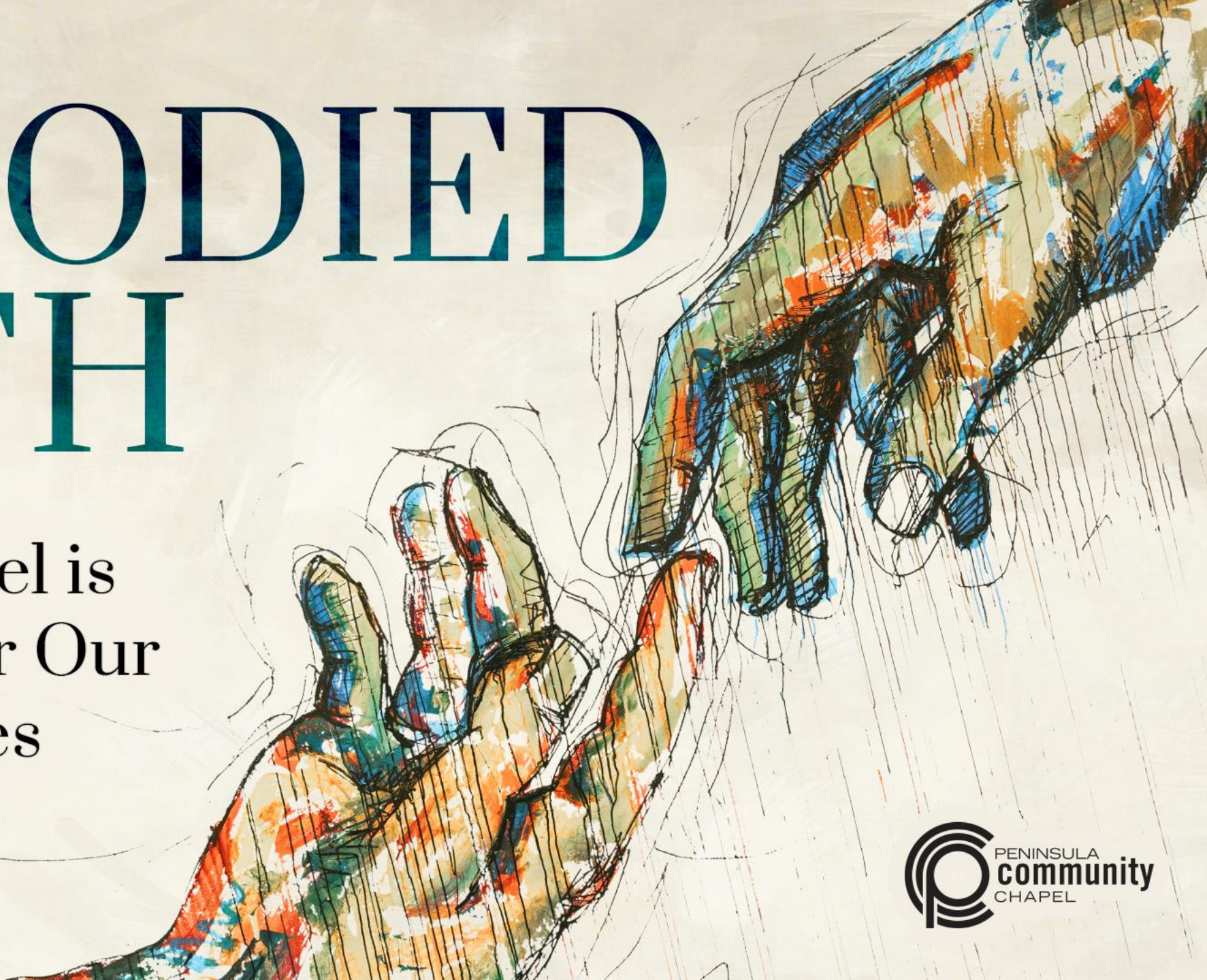


EMBODIED FAITH

How the Gospel is
Good News for Our
Physical Bodies





EMBODIED FAITH



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Embodied Faith: Sickness, Disease, Aging, and Death

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- >> Our bodies are broken**
- >> Our bodies will be resurrected**
- >> Our bodies are comforted through Christ**

Our bodies are broken

**“For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my
mother's womb.**

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made. Wonderful are
your works; my soul knows it
very well.”**

Psalm 139:13-14



Our bodies are broken

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”

Romans 8:20-22

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Romans 8:20-22

Our bodies are broken

“(Our Bodies) do not work as they were originally meant to. They get sick. Sometimes they stay sick. They break and deform. They age and decay. And all of them, at some point, die. This, too, is evidence of the futility that now marks much of creation.”

Sam Allberry



Aging:

“There is a general slowing down of all the processes to maintain life. Age produces a declining ability to evaluate and respond to one’s environment.”

Bob Smith M.D.

Sickness & Diseases:

**Colds, auto-immune diseases,
COVID-19, Cancer, Anxiety,
Depression, PTSD, Trauma...**

...and death itself.



**“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
*Genesis 3:19***

How do we respond to this?

>> We groan, with Godly grief over our brokenness.

“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

Romans 8:24

How do we respond to this?

>> We groan specifically for the redemption of our bodies!

>> Expressions of anguish are expressions of faith.

Our bodies will be resurrected

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Our bodies will be resurrected

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:20

>> Jesus was the first of many to be raised! We will have, in the age to come, resurrected bodies.

Our bodies will be resurrected

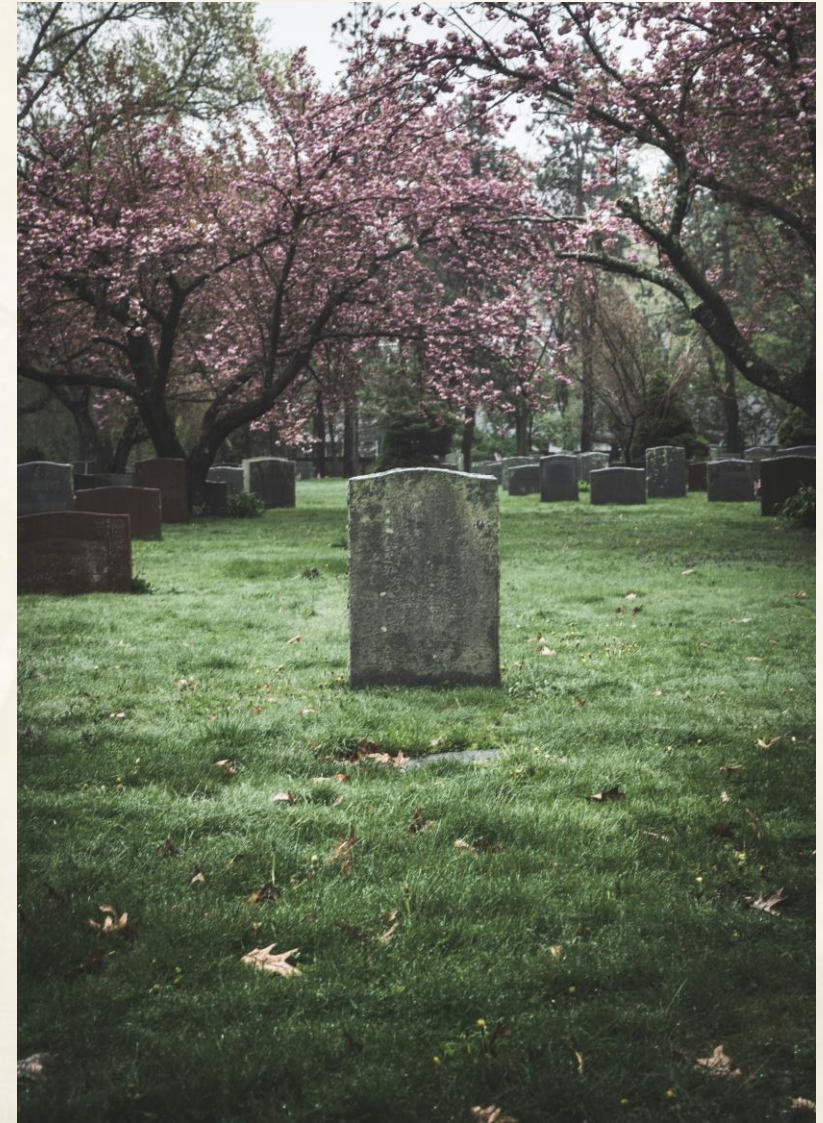
“What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Our bodies will be resurrected

**“Death used to be an executioner,
but the gospel makes him just a gardener.”**

George Herbert



Our bodies will be resurrected

- All our bodies are broken.**
- Our bodies will be resurrected.**

>> What is God's present grace for you and me today in light of the brokenness of our bodies?

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

Psalm 77

“¹ I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. ³ When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. ⁴ You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵ I consider the days of old, the years long ago. ⁶ I said, “Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart.” Then my spirit made a diligent search:

⁷“Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? ⁸ Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? ⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”

Psalm 77

“¹⁰ Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.” ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds...”

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

>> **We speak.**

>> **We remember.**

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

>> First: We speak our fears, frustrations & and hard questions.

Verses 8 & 9:

“Will the Lord spurn forever? Never again be favorable?”

***“Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”***

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

>> Second: We remember...our honest questioning should always lead to active remembering.

Verse 10 & 11:

***““And I said this. “This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.*”**

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes I will remember your wonders of old.”

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

Two-fold remembering:

- 1) We Remember who God is in Redemptive History.**
- 2) We remember who God has been in Our Lives.**

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

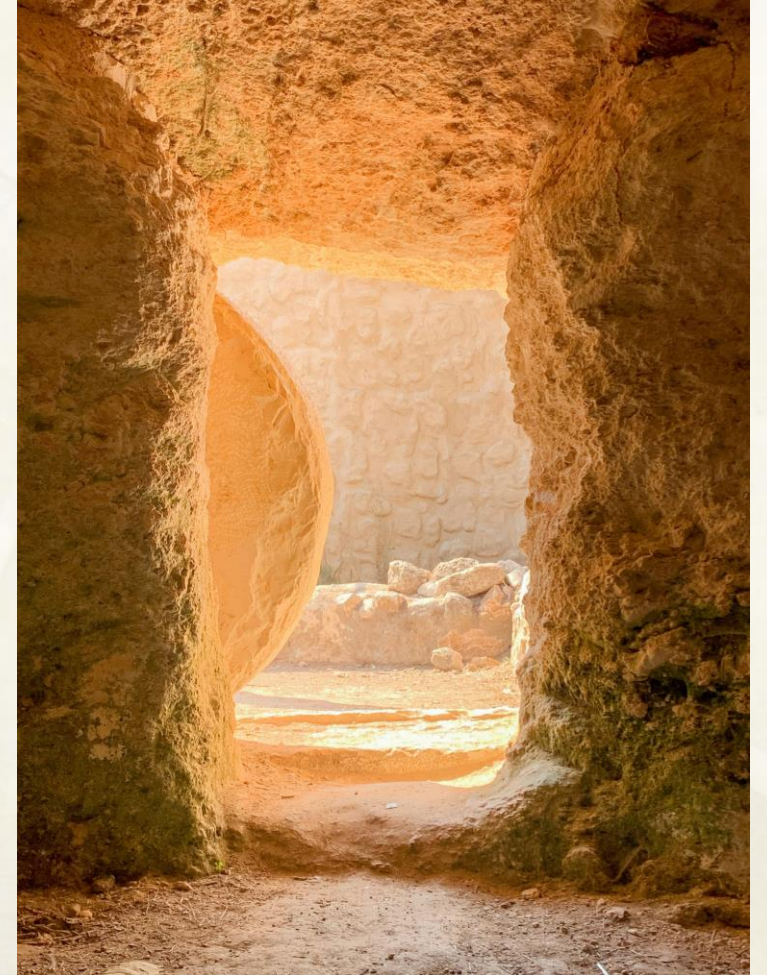
“You have lived, loved, and labored for him, not always with great success, but with constant faithfulness and zeal. Your faith has shown its genuineness by the good works achieved and the battles fought... Maintaining zeal godward as our bodies wear out is the special discipline to which we aging Christians are called.”

J.I. Packer, Finishing the Course with Joy

Our bodies are comforted through Christ

“He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”
(Isaiah 53:3)

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled....”
(John 11: 33)



Encouragement for the friend of the sufferer...

- 1) In humility, acknowledge missteps.**
- 2) *We listen.***
- 3) *We love, serve and weep.***
- 4) *We pray often- with and for.***

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

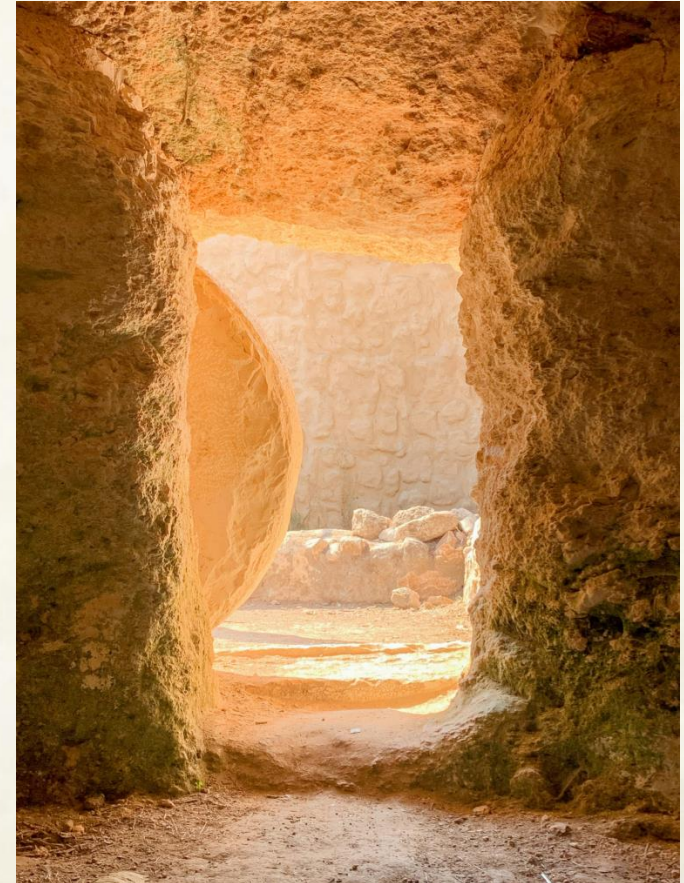
“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?

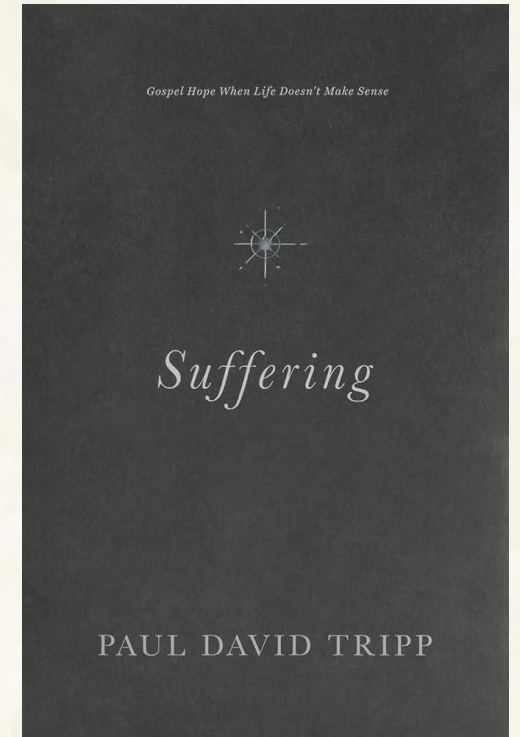
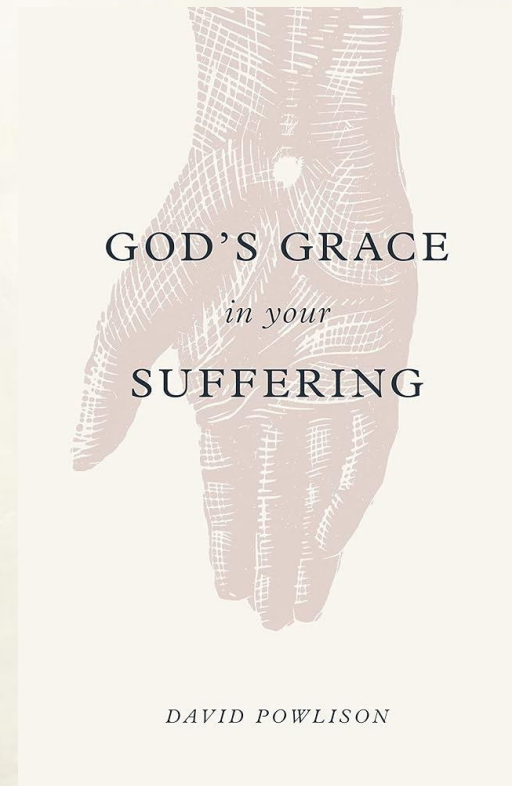
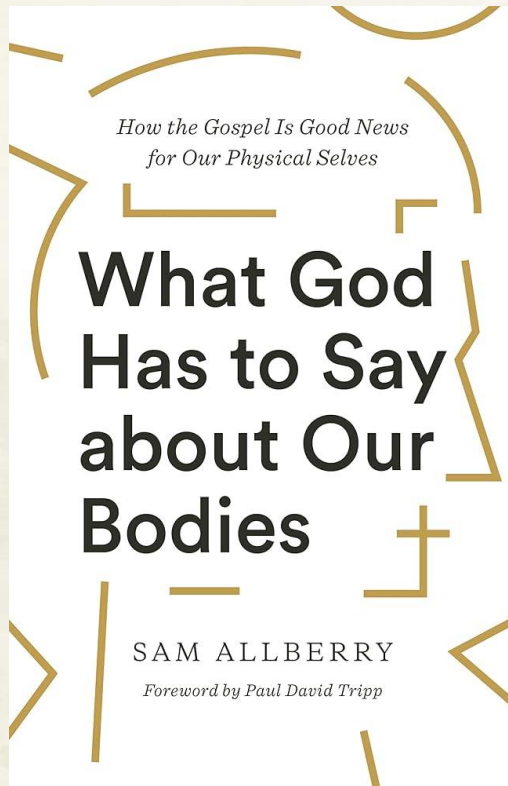
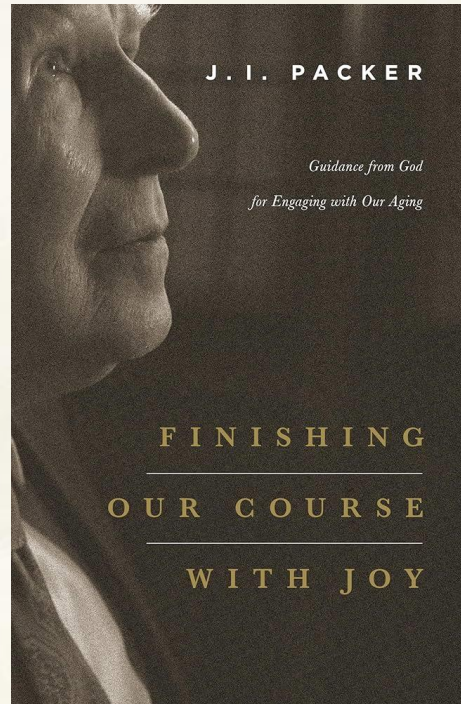
O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:54-57



Further Resources:



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