

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PLANTING ROOTS UPDATE

94% way through 3-year Journey
74% of commitments fulfilled
80% with non-commitments

3-Year Journey Ends This November!

Mark your calendars:

September 3rd: *Clark/Bethany Work Day*

November 19th: *Agape & Planting Roots Culmination & Celebration! Join us as we end our Journey and look ahead to what's next!*

FAMILY TRAP SHOOTING

- Family Trap Shooting Event, September 30 @ 8am

Pacific Christian is hosting a Trap Shoot at the Santa Maria gun club. The cost is \$40 and includes the cost for 2 rounds of shells, 2 rounds of clays and a Santa Maria BBQ lunch.

RSVP and money required by September 1st.
More info at moe@ourelement.org.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team



PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:26

AMOS 2:1

ROMANS 5:12

1 CORINTHIANS

JOSHUA 7:25

15:53-58

1 SAMUEL 31:12

EIGHTEEN:

BURNED OR BURIED

8/20/2017

EIGHTEEN: BURNED OR BURIED

At the end of last year, Element did a series that answered some questions about the scriptures that people have commonly asked. As the series ended, we asked the people of Element to write down their own questions that we would answer in 2017. Nearly 30 questions (and answers) later, we have reached the final question in our series! Be sure to go back on our website to see what questions were answered (www.ourelement.org).

God is big enough to handle it when we are faced with ideas or things that make us say “What in the world?!” This week is no exception. But this week, there is no black and white answer. This week’s What in the World question is: *“The Catholic Church just released direction to Catholics about what they can and can’t do with cremated ashes in order for the soul to be ready when Jesus returns. I thought the body is just a shell that gets left behind. What does it matter what is done to it – burial or cremation? Scattered ashes vs buried vs hung on the mantle. What does the bible actually say about this and what do Christian churches believe vs the Catholic Church?”*

What has been your experience with the subject of death?

In what ways is death separation?

What do you think God intended life to be for us when He created us?

Most of us have experienced death or loss, no matter our age; think about the events and conversations surrounding those events. There is no perfect thing to say when you’re the one who is walking through the death of a loved one. As a community, it’s hard to know what to say and do. But death comes to all of us and how we handle it will usually be directly related to how we view God and His care for us.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:26.

Before reading this passage, did you think of death as an enemy?

Can we see death as a victory in light of what Jesus did through His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave?

The only time we tend to think about what happens to an expired body is when death happens to someone else. Most people don’t want to think about death and will ignore even the most mundane discussion about it, unless it is spoken about in a joking manner.

Have you thought about burial vs cremation?

What do you want to happen to you?

Sometimes breaking hard topics down into the simplest terms for children shows us what we really believe. As difficult as it is, saying the black and white truth of “she/he died,” is clear and allows the family and friends to begin the process of grieving. The following phrases are easier but often confusing:

“...he passed away...”

“...they lost their grandmother...”

“...she has gone on...”

“...he slipped away in his sleep...”

These phrases are all things we have heard and probably said, but they all mean the person died. Death is final. Death is unnatural because we are made for eternity. Death is separation. But from what? Life.

Our understanding of death as an enemy and understanding its defeat at the hands of our Savior can do much to help us navigate the conversations that surround it. We do not have to fear death, or worry about how our bodies are disposed; God made the universe out of nothing and has promised to remake us again. We should be honest about death, it is the result of sin, but also be more forthcoming about the solution, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

No matter where you come down on the issue, how can the gospel redeem our end of life choices?

How can we use death (our own or walking through it with others) as an opportunity to reflect the love of Jesus to our community?