

HOPE! Week 1

1. Origin of the idea for this class

As we get older we can also be gripped by another fear--not so much of death as of what may happen to us before we die: loss of memory, dementia, Alzheimer's, losing our driver's license, loss of independence, loss of ability to do the things we love doing. I speak from experience: arthritis keeps me from playing the violin; bad knees prevent me from walking; my own memory isn't what it was and I wonder at times where all this is leading.

Can trust in Jesus Christ carry me through these things?

I got a lot of feedback about this. Someone suggested we should do a class on it.

I see this as a guided conversation, rather than a "class" in the ordinary sense. I certainly don't have all the answers, but there's a good deal of wisdom and experience in this room. I'd like to make this an opportunity for anyone to lurk online if you'd prefer that to being present here, and for anyone, either here or "lurking" to share online.

2. A friend of mine (Molly) has done a series of seminars in an Anglican church in England of this topic. I'm attaching a copy (edited) of what she's done, in case there's something here that interests you in particular.

However, focus will be narrower. I want to focus on the spiritual aspects of growing older, such as anxiety about our situations.

3. I'd be really happy if we could develop relationships in this class that would provide an opportunity to talk about some of the practical things and help us to support and pray for one another.

4. Chris Hadfield *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth* pp 51-54.