



Jules joins me in thanking you all for your thoughts, prayers, kind words, and sympathy cards after my mother's death. Though long expected and in many ways hoped for after her 10 year battle with Alzheimer's disease, the loss is yet quite profound. And though we lost Dad 6 and a half years ago and certainly grieved for him, the death of my mother somehow is different, even if death lifted her from pain and suffering to eternal life in Christ. We both miss Mom, and I imagine we always will.

I have studied grief and how to minister to those who are grieving for 34 years, but now, I feel like I am going through grief for the very first time at the age of 56. That doesn't really make any sense as I have lost many people I love in those years. I would like to say that this experience is giving me a greater understanding of grief and what it must like be for others, but I'm not sure of that at all. I think grief is different for everyone.

The first drug to combat not the symptoms but the actual disease of Alzheimer's is being developed by two companies called Biogen and Eisai. Such a drug is called the "Holy Grail" in Alzheimer's research. Having watched my mother succumb to this disease in the same way she watched her own father succumb to it, I am rooting for a cure. But in the end, I am not putting my trust in medicine. I am putting my trust in God, and that our God is a loving God who will call each of us in a time that God orders.

*Psalm 91: ¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
²will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

Or Alzheimer's. Amen.

*Grace and Peace,
Ron*

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
<i>Growing with God's Word and Building up the Body of Christ</i>			Wednesday	August 29	Hebrews 12: 1-11
Sunday	August 26	2 Corinthians 12: 1-10	Thursday	August 30	Hebrews 12: 12-29
Monday	August 27	2 Corinthians 12: 11-21	Friday	August 31	Hebrews 13: 1-25
Tuesday	August 28	2 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Saturday	September 1	Mark 2: 18-28