

## A Look Into the Future

Haddon W. Robinson is the *Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching* and senior director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. In *Life and Death Advice* on a Preaching Today audio, he tells this story:

A man opens a newspaper and discovers it is dated six months in advance of the time he lives. Reading through the newspaper, he learns about events that have not yet taken place. He turns to the sports page and sees scores of games not yet played. He turns to the financial page and discovers the rise or fall of different stocks and bonds.

He realizes this information can make him a wealthy man. A few large bets on an underdog team can make him rich. Investments in stocks that are now low but will go high can fatten his portfolio. He is delighted.

But then he turns the page and comes to the obituary column. There he sees his picture and story.

Everything changes. The knowledge of his death drastically alters his view about wealth.

The story causes serious introspection for any reader. What is really important in life? Where are my priorities? How should I be spending the unknown days of my existence that remain?

Among the answers are: (1) be certain of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, (2) demonstrate love for others, including treating them with kindness and respect, and (3) offer praise to God for His innumerable blessings.

And that's good advice for every day.

– Beecher Hunter

