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Volume 63 | Issue 1

Article 58

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5-1-2020

## Grewe's "Time to talk about dying: How clergy and chaplains can help senior adults prepare for a good death" (book review)

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### Recommended Citation

Ternak, Armand (2020) "Grewe's "Time to talk about dying: How clergy and chaplains can help senior adults prepare for a good death" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 63 : Iss. 1 , Article 58. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol63/iss1/58>

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# Book Reviews

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Grewe, F. (2018). *Time to talk about dying: How clergy and chaplains can help senior adults prepare for a good death*. Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 168 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781784508463

In a compassionate way, this book helps answer the questions everyone eventually asks as they prepare for death or help someone prepare for death. *Why me? Why now? What did I do to deserve this? Why won't GOD just take me? Why am I still alive? For how long? What happens after I die? How will I be remembered?* Helping 2000+ people answer these and other questions has been the author's calling for the past ten years as a hospice chaplain. Going into hospice brings to the forefront many social; mental; emotional; physical; financial; spiritual and also practical legacy issues, usually with a short time frame to deal with them, so preparation well in advance is much preferred. But most people don't want to face these issues. That is why this book is so helpful & needed by churches, ministers, families and individuals. Not because it has all the answers, but because it brings up the issues and asks the right questions. How should various family members prepare for and handle the death of a love one? Get prepared because it is not an easy process. The author says that spiritual leaders should have three core competencies: listening; asking questions; telling stories/truths. Dying well involves living well. That goes for everyone: pastor; patient; doctor; relative; spouse, etc. This book is a practical and compassionate introduction not a conclusion or academic treatise. The author definitely achieves his purpose. It is clear and meaningful beginning to the discussion. The stories are pertinent and appendices are useful. It is recommended for any educational institution training ministers, chaplains, counselors, nurses and doctors.

## Reviewer

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