

## DYING IN THE LORD

In today's study we will look at how the Lord died .... and how we are to die in Him. When we suffer for doing well, and take it patiently .... that is what is acceptable with God (1 Peter 2:20). As saints, we are to have patience in the face of death .... as we keep the laws of God and the faith of Christ:

**Rev 14:12-13** Here is the patience of the saints:

here are they that keep the commandments of God, (Rom 3:31,  
1 Cor 14:37) and the faith of Jesus. (Gal 2:16)

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,  
Write, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord** from henceforth:  
Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; (1 Cor 3:9)  
and their works do follow them. (1 Tim 5:24-25, Titus 3:8)

How do we 'die in the Lord'? We die as He died .... not necessarily by the same means of death (not by crucifixion) .... but by the same response and attitude that He displayed when He died.

**We are to be like Him in DEATH .... that we may show His LIFE:**

**2 Cor 4:8-11**

9

- We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed;
- we are perplexed, but not in despair;
- Persecuted, but not forsaken;
- cast down, but not destroyed;

10 **Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**

11 For **we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.** (As Phil 1:21, our theme verse for these studies on life and death.)

James wrote of fraudulent, rich men (James 5:1-6, also Luke 6:24)

.... who seek treasures on earth in treasures of gold and silver

and expensive garments of clothing

.... men who **murder the righteous.**

**'The just' .... those who live by faith** (Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38) **do not oppose them in the slaying** (Matt 5:39), knowing the misery they will receive at the judgment of God against them:

**James 5:5-6** Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in **a day of slaughter.**  
6 Ye have **condemned and killed the just;** (That's what the evil men do .... what do the just do?) **and he doth not resist you.**

The prophets were patterns of **perseverance in enduring suffering unto death**, which is a passageway to God's heavenly city (Heb 11:10,16):

**James 5:10-11** **Take,** my brethren, **the prophets,** who have spoken in the name of the Lord, **for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.**  
11 Behold, **we count them happy which endure.**  
Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Philip explained Isaiah chapter 53 to the Ethiopian eunuch, a prophecy about how Jesus would die. **He did not speak a word in self-defense:**

**Acts 8:32-33** The place of the scripture which he read was this, **He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer,** so **opened he not his mouth:**  
33 **In his humiliation his judgment was taken away:** and who shall declare his generation? for **his life is taken from the earth.**

Evil men thought they had victory over Christ Jesus when they put Him to death .... but they didn't .... for **death is not 'the end':**

**John 10:17-18** Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again.**  
18 **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father.

Just as it was for Christ .... so it is for His saints.

Evil men charged Jesus with blasphemy (Matt 26:65) ....

yet He was God's elect (Isa 42:1):

**Rom 8:33-39** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?  
It is God that justifieth.

Evil men condemned Jesus to death (Mark 14:64) ....

yet death could not hold Him (Matt 28:6):

34 Who is he that condemneth?  
It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,  
who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Evil men could not quench nor drown God's love (Song of Sol 8:7)

by putting Christ to death .... for no man hath greater love, than that he lay  
down his life for his friends (John 15:13) .... which is what Jesus did for us:

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Just as evil men killed Christ the Lord .... so they will kill the followers  
of the Lord (Matt 24:9, Acts 23:14-16). Just as He was a sheep led to the  
slaughter (Acts 8:32, Isa 53:7) .... so are we. **'Mid-Acts' folks would not  
admit it .... but Paul applied the prophecy in Psa 44:22 to us:**

36 **As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long;  
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

37 Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors** through him  
that loved us.

38 For **I am persuaded, that neither death,** nor life, nor angels, nor  
principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

If 'mid-Acts-ers' really 'followed Paul' .... they would surely experience persecution because of their godly life that condemned the world. Instead, **they carelessly sin .... while claiming 'the grace life'**, doing anything they want to do -- rather than NOT doing the things they would (Gal 5:17):

**2 Tim 3:12-13** Yea, and **all that will (that is, they make a 'choice' to) live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

13 But **evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**

Even if we just consider the 'physical' .... the things that were 'without' ....

do you think 'mid-Acts-ers' still want to 'follow Paul' like that?

**2 Cor 11:20-27** For **ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.**

21 I speak as concerning **reproach**, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

22 Are they Hebrews? so am I.

Are they Israelites? so am I.

Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more;

in **labours** more abundant,

in **stripes** above measure,

in **prisons** more frequent,

**in deaths oft.**

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty **stripes** save one.

25 Thrice was I **beaten** with rods,

once was I **stoned**,

thrice I suffered shipwreck,

a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often,

in perils of waters,

in perils of robbers,

in perils by mine own countrymen,

in perils by the heathen,

(2 Cor 11:26) in perils in the city,  
 in perils in the wilderness,  
 in perils in the sea,  
 in perils among false brethren;  
 27 In weariness and painfulness,  
 in watchings often,  
**in hunger and thirst,**  
**in fastings often,**  
**in cold and nakedness.**

Jesus taught His disciples about life and death in the kingdom of God:

**Luke 6:20-30** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for **yours is the kingdom of God.**

21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

22 **Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you,**  
**and when they shall separate you from their company,**  
**and shall reproach you,**  
**and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.**

23 **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy:**  
**for, behold, your reward is great in heaven:**  
**for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger.

Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!  
 for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

27 But I say unto you which hear, **Love your enemies,**  
**do good to them which hate you,**

28 **Bless them that curse you,**  
**and pray for them which despitefully use you.**

29 And unto him that **smiteth thee on the one cheek**  
**offer also the other;**

and him that **taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.**

30 **Give to every man that asketh of thee;**  
**and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.**

Evil men will persecute and kill those who are in God's kingdom:

**Matt 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up **to be afflicted,** and **shall kill you;** and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Christ did not revile in return. He did not threaten when He suffered

(1 Pet 2:21-23). He was our example in suffering .... as we die in the Lord:

**1 Peter 3:8-17** Finally, **be ye all of one mind,**  
**having compassion one of another,**  
**love as brethren,**  
**be pitiful,**  
**be courteous:**

9 **Not rendering evil for evil,**  
**or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing;**  
**knowing that ye are thereunto called,**  
**that ye should inherit a blessing.**

10 For he that will love life, and see good days,  
**let him refrain his tongue from evil,**  
**and his lips that they speak no guile:**

11 **Let him eschew evil, and do good;**  
**let him seek peace, and ensue it.**

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? (Physical harm is not considered 'real harm' by God. Jesus said in **Luke 12:4**, not to be afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more they can do. They cannot condemn us nor separate us from God.)

14 **But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;**

15 But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:**  
**and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas **they speak evil of you, as of evildoers,** they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 **For it is better, if the will of God be so,**  
**that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.**

Believers are not caught off guard by persecution. It comes as no surprise:

**1 Peter 4:12-16** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But **rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;**  
**that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

(1 Pet 4:) 14 **If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.**

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet **if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.**

**As a Christian, we are not to fear suffering .... nor dying in the Lord  
.... for therein lies our reward and victory:**

**1Cor 15:54-58** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying **that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

55 **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**

56 **The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.**

57 But thanks be to **God,**

**which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren,

be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as **ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

Paul quoted Isaiah's prophecy and applied it to us. We are His people:

**Isa 25:8-9** **He will swallow up death in victory;** and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and **the rebuke of his people shall he take away** from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

9 And it shall be said in that day, **Lo, this is our God;**  
**we have waited for him, and he will save us:**

**this is the LORD;**

**we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

At the end, Christ will destroy the devil (Heb 2:14, Rev 20:10) and death:

**Rev 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death,** neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Christ will come to put all rule, authority, and power under His feet:

**1 Cor 15:26** The last enemy that shall be **destroyed is death.**

Stephen followed Jesus into death. He died .... as the Lord died ....

asking God to forgive His murderers:

**Acts 7:59-60** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And **he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

Paul was forsaken by everyone at his first trial. He also prayed that God would pardon the unfaithful deserters:

**2 Tim 4:16-18** At my first answer no man stood with me, but **all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.**

17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will **preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The chief priests, scribes, elders, the council, false witnesses, and Caiaphas the high priest (Matt 26:57-67) .... all condemned Jesus to death:

**Matt 26:67** Then did they **spit in his face,** and **buffeted** him; and others **smote** him with the palms of their hands,

After Jesus was scourged, He was taken into the common hall in front of the whole band of soldiers to be further ridiculed. He did not spit back:

**Matt 27:28-31** And they **stripped** him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

29 And when they had platted a crown of **thorns,**

they put it **upon his head,**

and a **reed** in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and **mocked** him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

30 And they **spit** upon him,

and took the reed, and **smote** him on the head.

31 And after that they had **mocked** him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to **crucify** him.

How did Jesus die? What did He do during death? He prayed for those who were putting Him to death:

**Luke 23:33** And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they **crucified** him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.  
34 Then **said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them **derided** him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

The Son of Man did not retaliate. He stored His vengeance for His day of wrath (Job 21:30, Psa 94:1, Nahum 1:2, Isa 35:4, Rom 2:5, 2 Thes 1:8).

Living in the Lord .... or dying in Lord .... either way .... we are His:

**Rom 14:8-9** For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, **we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.**

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Christ removed the sharp, piercing sting out of death .... by bearing our sin and resurrecting triumphantly. We should not fear death, for when we die, we are transported directly into the heavenly presence of God:

**2 Cor 5:6,8** Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:  
8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Are you bearing about His dying .... that His life may be seen in you?

**Phil 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and **to die is gain.**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*  
Copyright © 3-11      The Magnified Word      All rights reserved