

## HOW TO DIE

Last week we studied 'Preparing to Die'. Now, we'll look at 'How to Die':

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

Studies have shown that, generally, people do not like to talk about death and dying. That is one of the reasons 'life' insurance is so-called. It would not sell as well, if it was negatively named 'death' insurance, even though that is just what it is. Death is what makes it effective and pay-off.

Jesus Christ (Rev 1:9), Alpha and Omega, the first and the last (Rev 1:11), the Son of Man (Rev 1:13), the Giver of Everlasting (John 6:27), Eternal (John 10:28) Life .... has charge of death:

**Rev 1:18** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, **I** am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

When deliverance from danger is provided (Isa 43:2) ... it comes from God:

**Psa 68:20** He that is our God is **the God of salvation;**  
and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

When it is your time to die (Ecc 3:2, Psa 90:12) .... no man can change it

.... no doctor can keep you alive:

**Ecc 8:8** There is no man that hath power over the spirit  
to retain the spirit;  
neither hath he power in the day of death:

and there is no discharge in that war;  
neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Death comes to every person .... because of sin:

**Rom 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world,  
and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men,  
for that all have sinned:

Sin brings death .... but God gives life:

**Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death;  
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Everyone will have their day of death. The death rate is still one apiece:

**Heb 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die,  
but after this the judgment:

God is not delighted when the wicked die. He told them to repent:

**Ezek 33:11** Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD,  
I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;  
but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn  
ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

It is dear to God's eyes when His saints die:

**Psa 116:15** Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.

The wicked have no hope (1 Thess 4:13-14) .... but God's saints  
sorrow not like them. We have hope beyond death, the redemption of our  
body (Rom 8:23-24):

**Prov 14:32** The wicked is driven away in his wickedness:  
but the righteous hath hope in his death.

When death is near, we should not fear. God is with us. He will comfort us:

**Psa 23:4** Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Righteousness delivers from death (Prov 10:2, 11:4). God will bring  
us through:

**Psa 48:14** For this God is our God for ever and ever:  
he will be our guide even unto death.

The Lord encouraged the church in Smyrna to be **faithful unto death:**

**Rev 2:10** **Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:**

behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried;  
and ye shall have tribulation ten days:

**be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

When saints are martyred .... God calls it 'overcoming':

**Rev 12:10-11** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,**  
**and by the word of their testimony;**  
and **they loved not their lives unto the death.**

Jesus warned of a time to come .... just before the end of the world  
when saints will be hunted, given up, taken into custody to be judged,  
condemned, punished, scourged, tormented, and persecuted to the death:

**Luke 21:12-19** But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers **for my name's sake.**

13 And **it shall turn to you for a testimony.**

14 Settle it therefore in your hearts,  
not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom,  
which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and **some of you shall they cause to be put to death.**

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

19 **In your patience possess ye your souls.**

Christ told His disciples not to be afraid of physical harm or death:

**Matt 10:28** And **fear not them which kill the body,**  
**but are not able to kill the soul:**

but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Jesus forewarned His disciples of persecution in the ungodly, Christ-hating world. Suffering at their hands is not surprising .... but expected:

**John 15:19-21** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

20 Remember the word that I said unto you,

**The servant is not greater than his lord.**

**If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;**

if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

21 But **all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake,** because they know not him that sent me.

True believers will even be put to death in the name of God:

**John 16:1-4** These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, **the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.**

3 And **these things will they do unto you,**

**because they have not known the Father, nor me.**

4 **But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.** And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

So, how should saints handle it? We ought to follow 'The Golden Rule' from Jesus words .... that is, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." In other words, treat people how you want to be treated:

**Luke 6:31** And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Even sinners love people who love them (Luke 6:32-34).

But can you - do you - could you .... love those who would MURDER you?

**Matt 5:38-45** Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, **That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

(Matt 5:) 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law,  
and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.  
41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.  
42 Give to him that asketh thee,  
and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.  
43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour,  
and hate thine enemy.  
44 But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you,  
do good to them that hate you,  
and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**  
45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:  
for he maketh his sun to rise on **the evil and on the good,**  
and sendeth rain on **the just and on the unjust.**

Jesus **LIVED and DIED** that way:

**1 Peter 3:18** For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins,  
the just for the unjust,** that he might bring us to God,  
**being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:**

People expect to be punished for wrong-doing. But how do you act or  
respond when you are **falsely** accused? Do you still have a good attitude?

**1 Peter 2:19-24** For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward  
God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults,  
ye shall take it patiently?

**but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it,  
ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.**

21 **For even hereunto were ye called:** (This is how God calls us to live.)

Jesus was the Ultimate Representative of teaching us 'How to Die':)

because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example,  
that ye should follow his steps:**

22 Who **did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:**

23 Who, when **he was reviled, reviled not again;**

**when he suffered, he threatened not;**

**but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:**

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:  
by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus Christ showed how to love your enemies .... unto death:

**Rom 5:8-10** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Jam 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5):

**Phil 2:5-8** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation,  
and took upon him the form of a servant,  
and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man,  
he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death,  
even the death of the cross.

We are to be made perfect through sufferings (1 Cor 2:6,

**Heb 2:9-10** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things,  
and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory,  
to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

God's work in us is accomplished through suffering and persecution:

**2 Cor 12:9-10** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:  
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities,  
that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities,  
in reproaches,  
in necessities,  
in persecutions,  
in distresses for Christ's sake:  
for when I am weak, then am I strong.

There is an old hymn we should sing called "Footsteps of Jesus" ....  
about following the Lord .... through the gloom of that place of weeping:

**1 John 2:6** **He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also  
so to walk, even as he walked.**

We are to follow Paul the way he followed Christ. Contrary to how the 'mid-Acts-ers' teach it .... Paul followed Christ **through suffering unto death:**

**1 Cor 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

**How did Paul follow Christ? In suffering unto death!**

**Phil 3:10** **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection,  
and the fellowship of his sufferings,  
being made conformable unto his death;**

In their quest to 'follow Paul' .... 'mid-Acts, hyper-dispensationalists' have completely missed the whole point. They teach that 'following Paul' means to only follow Paul's writings in his epistles as instruction for today, thus effectively, DIS-regarding ALL the other scriptures as applicable. That is not at all what the verses mean. Sure Paul was an example (Phil 3:17), but he suffered the loss of all his worldly possessions and counted them but dung. He lost everything for Christ's sake .... and he didn't even look back:

**Phil 3:13-14** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:  
but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind,  
and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**  
14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God  
in Christ Jesus.

Do you want to know Christ?

Are you willing to be a fellow in His ship of suffering?

Are you prepared to die for His sake ... confident of His resurrection power?

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*