
The Death of Death

The Abolition of Damnation

II Timothy 1:8-10 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Death is a solemn subject for consideration, but it is a reality that we all must face up to. We are not requiring people to go into an emotional frenzy, crazed torturous afflicting of oneself, but a reasonable recognition and assessment of the truth and tragedy of the matter and what remedy is there to address it.

By way of introduction let us clarify what we mean by death. It is obvious that we die physically, but is there more to it than that?

We have to realize, to begin with, that we are not the byproducts of an evolutionary cycle governed by time and chance and equated to a complex being like ourselves. That is simply ludicrous.

That being the case, we have been created, fashioned, designed by an Intelligent Designer, Creator, God Who is the Author and Who is Life Himself.

God, also, rendered the sentence of death, so He alone is qualified to clarify a definition of death that can be valid and reliable.

God has preserved His Word and recorded for us this definition which includes physical death, but also it goes further.

First, **Romans 6:23a** *For the wages of sin is death...and we are all sinners according to Romans 3:23 All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

Second, the soberness of this definition of death is found in **Revelation 20:14** *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Finally, this is an eternal death, **Mark 9:43-48** *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

Now that I hopefully have your attention, we will, Lord willing, consider first, *The Requirement for Death's Demise*; second, *The Implement Vessel Person of Death's Demise*; third, *The Instrument of Death's Demise*; and last, *The Triumphant in Death's Demise*.

I. The Requirement for Death's Demise

- A. Many accept death as natural. That is an erroneous position to take.
- B. Before we consider the fact that death's demise is required, let us observe that it is desired from a natural standpoint.
 - 1. Understand that human depravity has caused us to love death and the demise of death would involve the embracing of life from a Biblical context which is contrary to sinful man.
 - 2. Death is only natural as a consequence for sin.

3. Death did not exist before the Fall; it did not exist in Paradise. Death is unnatural or foreign to Paradise.
 4. Generally, people do not want to die, they want to live as long as possible, thus, crusades for cures for cancer, AIDS, Ebola, etc...people being frozen at death hoping a cure may be found for the cause of their death and be made alive again to live more or forever.
 5. In that sense, people would love the demise of death; the problem is that they want it without the true God of Holy Scripture in the picture.
- C. So, why is it required?
1. Death is required because God is life, death cannot abide with life, they are incompatible, more so than oil and water.
 2. Death's demise or the Death of Death must occur in order to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
 3. God has deemed it to be so, being the Creator, Lawgiver, Judge, being holy, just, and good, He will do what is right.
 4. It is folly to charge God with folly, what good is it? It will only lead to your own eternal and damnable demise.

II. *The Agent for Death's Demise*

- A. There is a Divine Agent or Cause for Death's Demise. This agent is not a secret agent, but a universally proclaimed agent and His Person has unfolded more and more over the centuries.
- B. He was first described in **Genesis 3** as the One Who would be of the Seed of the Woman Who would crush the serpent's head who promoted and continues to promote death.

- C. We see Christ in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, in the Old Testament sacrifices, the tabernacle, the temple, the furniture inside them, the prophecies in the Old Testament, the writings of the New Testament.
- D. David was God's chosen vessel or agent to defeat Goliath and to be a type of Christ as King later on.
- E. Christ is the Agent for death's demise as being God,
 - 1. Being Eternal, able to endure the everlasting wrath of God, having an everlasting love toward His own.
 - 2. Being holy and righteous to keep the laws demands and requirements.
 - 3. Being Love and Merciful
- F. Christ, being Man,
 - 1. Fully God and fully Man yet without sin, and could not sin.
 - 2. Qualified to be that substitute to be in the stead of a sinful people.
 - 3. Qualified to be the Great High Priest Who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities because of His incarnation.

III. The Instrument for Death's Demise

- A. David was a chosen vessel to defeat the enemy of Israel, the giant Goliath of the Philistines, but the weapons that Saul and the natural man were not sufficient or fitting for the battle at hand.
- B. ***II Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, I Corinthians 15:1-5***
- C. The instrument chosen were five smooth stones:

1. Total Depravity—Jesus knowing our depravity before the foundation of the world, procured a remedy
2. Unconditional Election—an election with conditions we need to meet as sinners brings damnation and death.
3. Limited Atonement—Jesus, being sinless, died to make atonement for His people and died in vain for no one, therefore, the death of death occurred through the death of Christ.
4. Irresistible Grace—if it was solely up to us and God's grace was not irresistible, we would die in our sins.
5. Perseverance of the Saints—if God's grace was so weak that it couldn't give His saints grace to live holy, it wouldn't be worth much, the victory would be limited.

IV. The Triumphant in Death's Demise

- A. That which pertains to death, sinful man, wicked spirits, demons, fallen angels and the like are defeated and fall to their everlasting demise and thus, are not triumphant in death's demise as they are one with death.
- B. First of all, Christ obtained the victory, not temporarily, but eternally.
- C. ***Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.***
- D. Because Christ obtained the victory over sin whose wages is death, thus, Christ triumphed over death, hell, and the grave.
- E. Because of Christ's triumph was for His elect, His elect are triumphant.
- F. ***1 Corinthians 15:54-55, 57 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?...57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

G. *1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

H. How can you know if you are God's elect?

- I.** You are burdened over your sins, it bothers you that you sin against such a good and merciful God whose laws are holy, just, and good.
- 2.** You realize that you deserve to go to eternal damnation in hell because of your sins, that God, the Lawgiver and Judge has the right to demand obedience and execute justice.
- 3.** You repent of your sins and believe in and trust in the gospel message that Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again for your justification.
- 4.** You love to pray and study the Word of God and show it by doing so.
- 5.** You love your new found brothers and sisters in Christ and you want to and do fellowship with them in church.

I. *2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

J. *Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

No more sin, thus, no more death because the death of Christ put death to death for His elect. All the sorrow and

misery of death is destroyed forever for the saints of God. The death of death, the abolition of damnation,

How that ought to melt our hearts that Christ would take on so great a death, dying more than a thousand deaths, but a multitude of eternal deaths that the sands of the sea, nor the stars of the heavens could number!

O how great the love of Jesus. Let us celebrate His victorious death, burial, and resurrection till He comes again, and now as we anticipate partaking of the Lord's Supper.

By Pastor A.C. Proctor

- Lord's Day P.M., October 5th, in the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2014 A.D.—Rural Hall, NC (Lord's Supper)