

Subj: Death

Text: 1 Cor. 15:20-26

Meth: Expository

Titl: The Last Enemy

G.Pp: Instruct and exhort

S.Pp: Instruct concerning death and its ultimate destruction

Thesis Sentence: All enemies of the soul fall one by one under the sword of the spirit, until the last enemy, death, is destroyed by the resurrection call of Jesus Christ!

Introduction:

- A. Enemies abound, all around, toward body and soul
 - 1. Sin, instigated by Satan, is the great enemy of the soul
 - 2. Disease, sickness, accidents, enemies of the body, often result in death
- B. All enemies of the soul fall one by one under the sword of the spirit, until the last enemy, death, is destroyed by the resurrection call of Jesus Christ!

I. Why death is an enemy

- A. It came as a curse (*Gen 3:16-19 "...till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*)
- B. Instills man with dread (*Psa 55:4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me."*)
 - 1. Criminals turn ashen awaiting execution
 - 2. Even Jesus dreaded the means of death that was awaiting him (*Luke 22:41-42 "And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."*)
- C. Grieves the ones left behind
 - 1. Jacob's death mourned by relatives and Egyptians (Gen. 50:1-3)
 - 2. Great lamentation for Stephen (Acts 8:2)
 - 3. Widows wept for Dorcas (Acts 9:39)
 - 4. Jesus wept at Lazarus tomb (Jn. 11:35)
 - 5. "Weep with them that weep." (Rom. 12:15)

II. Death will be destroyed (1 Cor 15:25-26 "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.")

- A. Not merely a cessation of dying, but a resurrection!
- B. A general resurrection of all will occur
 - 1. All who are in their graves (Jn. 5:28-29)
 - 2. The just and the unjust (Acts 24:14-15)
 - 3. All shall be made alive (1 Cor. 15:22)
 - 4. John beheld the resurrection of all classes (Rev 20:12-15)
- C. Death is not destroyed as long as one victim is held!

III. A deathless land beyond.

- A. No more 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.”*)
- B. No more curse (*Rev 22:3 “And there shall be no more curse (i.e. that of Gen. 3:16-19-RFM): but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him...”*)
- C. May be reached only by obedience to Christ (*Rev 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”*)

Conclusion:

- A. Voice of the Lord shook the throne of death at Bethany (Jn. 11:43-44) and Nain (Lk. 7:11-15)
- B. His voice will finally destroy death (John 5:28-29)

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