

DEATH EVEN YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED

7/15/26

TEXT: 1 COR 15:51-57

I think of what **Job 14:5** says: *"Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."*

Our days are determined by God. The numbers of our months are known by God. And furthermore, God has set the boundaries of life that cannot be passed. There is a boundary in our future that signals the end of life. To put it simply, we all face an appointment with death.

Francis Quarles expressed it thus, "He that begins to live begins to die."

Death is a sure way

Death may come in a slow way. It may be through a long and prolonged sickness that death comes to some of us.

Death may come in a sudden way. For some, we may meet death in an unexpected moment and without warning.

Death may come in a strange way.

One man was killed by the fall of a turtle on his head, dropped from the claws of a bald eagle.

A lady died of laughter on seeing a monkey try to pull on a pair of boots.

William III died from his horse stumbling over a molehill.

Death has been the enemy of every family. It has taken our loved ones and broken all our family circles. It has been the enemy to many a husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters, and friends. It has invaded all relationships of life and torn them apart. It has been without prejudice and shown no mercy to any of us.

Lets notice **verses 51-57** and notice how Paul tells death has its day coming. I point out 2 things in our text. Paul says, "Death your day is coming because:"

I. DEATHS DOMINANCE OVER HUMANITY

Paul begins verse 51 by saying, "*Behold, I show you a mystery...*"

The word "mystery" speaks of that which has been hidden in the past but is now revealed by God.

What is it that had been hidden in the past but

was now divinely revealed? Notice.

A. THERE IS A RELEASE FROM DEATH.

We read in **Romans 5:12** that *"death passed upon all men."* All men, everyone, was placed under the sentence of death. Death was part of the penalty of sin and since all men are sinners, then all were sentenced to die.

But Paul tells us there is an exemption to this sentence. He says in **verse 51**, *"We shall not all sleep."* In other words, he says that not everyone is going to die. There are those who will not experience death.

Who are these that will not have to die? We find as we read the Word of God that it is the believers that are living when Jesus comes again. **We read in I Thessalonians 4:17**, *"Then we which are alive and remain (those that are living when Jesus comes) shall be caught up..."*

Instead of **dying** *"we shall all be changed"* (**I Cor.15: 51**) Paul has already described the wonderful change that will take place at the resurrection of the body, but he now reveals that some will experience the same change without dying.

There have only been 2 people who ever lived that death lost the right to claim. That was Enoch and Elijah. The Bible says of Enoch that he was ***"translated that he should not see death"*** (Heb.11: 5). The Bible says of Elijah that he ***"went up by a whirlwind into heaven"*** (II Kings 2:11).

But glory to God there is coming a day when a whole crowd will not see death. Like Enoch they will be translated and like Elijah they will be carried up into heaven. It is very possible that some of us in this place will be among that crowd.

A. THERE IS A RELEASE FROM DEATH.

B. THERE IS A RAPTURE FROM DEATH.

Paul tells us that instead of dying there are those that will escape death. How will they escape death? He tells us in the latter part of **verse 52, *"the dead shall be raised" and the living "shall be changed."***

For them it will be a rapture. They will be changed and caught up.

IT WILL HAPPEN SO FAST THAT IT NOT ONLY UNIMAGINABLE,

Paul tells us in **verse 21** that it will happen in ***"a moment."***

We get our word "atom" from the word translated "moment." The word speaks of that which cannot be cut or divided. will happen so fast it is almost beyond our ability to measure.

Paul tells us that it will happen *"in the twinkling of an eye" (Vs.52)*. It is not necessarily at the blink of an eye but the twinkling of an eye. The phrase speaks of the time to cast a glance.

He is talking about something that is going to happen and happen so fast that at one second we are here and the before the next second we are gone.

Then he used a statement that blesses my heart. Paul says that this escape from death will occur *"at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound."*

Trumpets have a large place in the activities of the Bible. In the Old Testament trumpets were used to call the congregation together, to announce the journeying of the camps, and as an alarm or notification.

Trumpets were also blown during Israel's feasts and over their sacrifices in the beginning of their months.

It is not surprising that Jesus will use the trumpet to announce His coming.

We read in **I Thessalonians 4:16**, *"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."*

The phrase "the last trump" was a Roman military term.

- 1. One trumpet sound was a signal to the soldiers to pack up and strike their tents.**
- 2. Another trumpet sound signaled them to line up.**
- 3. Then a third trumpet sound, or the last trump, signaled to pull out and march.**

One of these glorious days we will hear the last trump and it will say to every believer "It's pulling out time!" Instead of dying, we will escape death. Instead of an appointment with the grave it will be an arrival in glory.

I. DEATHS DOMINANCE OVER HUMANITY

II. DEATHS DECREE OVER HUMANITY

Death has not only had the rights to every human being but from since the beginning of time has ruled over the human race, sitting as the eventual victor over every person. But Paul says, "Death, your day is coming when your rule will be conquered."

A. A PROPHETIC WORD.

verses 53-54, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] 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."

Paul explains that something must happen before the believer can live in heaven and in the presence of God.

The change he has mentioned has to occur. Our corruptible and mortal bodies must put on incorruption and immortality.

When that change takes place then will be fulfilled the prophecy, "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

The prophecy Paul refers to is found in **Isaiah 25:8: "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."**

It is like Paul is saying, "Death, you have ruled over the human race making all bow to ultimately to your demands. But Death, your day is coming for one day you will be swallowed up and vanquished in triumphant victory."

I can almost see Paul sticking out his tongue at death, taunting death and reminding death that for centuries it has limited the days of man on the earth, but that its days are numbered. Death has been the conquering one for the ages but one-day death will be the conquered one.

We also hear Paul taunting death with:

A. A PROPHETIC WORD.

B. A PERSONAL WORD.

In verse 55 we hear Paul saying, "O Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?"

The word "**sting**" is descriptive of a bee's stinger. Paul was saying, "Hey old boy, one day you are going to get your stinger pulled out."

I can see Paul as he looks down at a grave and says, "Grave, you have claimed us all, held us all but one day old boy you are going to get the whipping of your life."

I. DEATHS DOMINANCE OVER HUMANITY

II. DEATHS DECREE OVER HUMANITY

III. DEATHS DEALINGS OVER HUMANITY

We read in verse 56, "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

A.THE WHY DEATH EXISTS

Paul reminds us why death even exists. Sin is what brought death upon every human. Hence, sin gives death its power and the law gives sin its strength. The law strictly condemns the sinner. The law offers no hope, only condemnation and death. However, there is hope in Christ.

A.THE WHY DEATH EXISTS

B. THE WHY DEATH ENDS

(Romans 10:4)For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. THE WORD END MEANS IT IS COMPLETE FINISHED PERFECT THE BOUNDARY IS SET

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:

First he reminds is that the sting of death is sin. Sin is the reason people die.

Death gets its sting from the reality that we are sinners. Secondly, the strength of sin is the law. It is the law that reveals that we are sin. Sin is revealed and proven by the law.

GaL. 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. But Paul adds in **verse 57, "*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"**

Paul says, "Death, you have had certain rights and have ruled through the ages because of sin, but Someone has taken care of that problem and He has conquered both sin and death.

Death, just in case you think you are still be big boy on the block, I want you to know that Jesus Christ has won the victory for me and everyone who puts their trust in Him. Death, your day is coming!"

Someone has written: "There is a preacher of the old school but he speaks as boldly as ever. He is not popular, though the world is his parish and he travels every part of the globe and speaks in every language. He visits the poor, calls upon the rich, preaches to people of every religion, and the subject of his sermon is always the same. He is an eloquent preacher, often stirring feelings which no other preacher could, and bringing tears to eyes that never weep. His arguments none are able to refute, nor is there any heart that has remained unmoved by the force of this appeals. He shatters life with his message. Most people hate him; everyone fears him. His name? Death. Every tombstone is his pulpit, every newspaper prints his text, and someday every one of you will be his sermon."

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