

I Cor. 15: 26, 54-57

~~Q.A.~~

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SUBJECT: The Last Enemy

Our Lord in Destroying Death
Coloss. 2: 15

D 3/54

Q.A.

I Cor. 15: 26, 54-57

THE LAST ENEMY

15:55 On some unfallen planet into whose bowers death had never entered, from lips of some holy dweller there this language came, no astonishment. But what a greeting to its return here: here on this earth where the whole human race is smitten by the sting of death, where we labor daily to drive out every last foe. Victorious nevertheless.

But Paul something more beyond what presently we see. In a war the first step is not of little consequence. The great decision, the last battle. The death look to the end.

1. Death is an enemy.
 - An alien - no part of the design of unfallen creation.
 - An intruder, sports, wars.
 - A wolf that kills - no part of the Great Shepherd's flock
 - A ring to the head on the plow
 - A sign to the flowers of the field
 - The bitter word brings the harvest of the fall
 - The child of our desire for - "sin which it is justified, brings forth death."

2. A universal enemy.
 - "O death where...?" "O grave where..." Alas! where are they not? The sting of death is here! The victory of the grave is everywhere!

^{Even} crowned monarchs, uncalmly praising, mighty men of valor, are brethren to the worm. Side by side, the sword and the spade, "scythe" . . . shovel

(c) the despoiler.

Prophet, priest, king. Those mightiest in prayer, offspring of heart, & strength of lip - cut down in midnight of labor. No pity for the young. No mercy for the aged. No regard for the ^{multitude} What age, what land, what ^{world} without its grave? What city without its cemetery. The sea, prosperous mountains, the sea, not without their dead. Neither God nor man nor Tartar could have slain so mercilessly.

3. A formidable enemy.

Job 18:14 "the king of terrors."

All fearful things - the wind, storm, lightning, plague - borrow their fierceness from death.

at his approach, it is trouble, protracted moments, the shrouding of the Belshazzar, grow pale, joints loosened, hair white, ~~teeth~~
Job 2:14, 15. well run in bronze throes for death.

A reasonable foe. In very sense, death, formidable. Only foe, ^{that was} ~~but otherwise~~

(1) Does death make an enemy formidable? How is death? ^{is death?}
Dance, know ^{at the touch} ~~at the touch~~.
Flee of the alphas, Cassan, Napoleons, of party - turn page -
with my destruction by death. ^{marvelous} - lift up lid of coffin -
my soul, how death, death ^{spurs} ~~spurs~~ ^{much} ~~much~~ to utter ^{now} ~~now~~ all these
wonderful ambitions. ^{lifted from this} ~~lifted from this~~ ^{is} ~~is ^{truly} ~~truly~~ ^{formidable!} ~~formidable!~~~~

(2) Does death make an enemy formidable?
The finest, most savage foe ^{has} ~~has~~ ^{sometimes} ~~sometimes been
amenable to pity, but death is ^{inflexible}. Tears, groans,
lamentation, ^{where} ~~where~~ ^{has} ~~has~~ ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{help} ~~help~~. The
tears of the bereaved ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{void} ~~void ^{of the} ~~of the ^{system} ~~system ^{the} ~~the ^{rob} ~~rob ^{of the} ~~of the
widow on his ^{meat}. ^{(2) grief in} ~~(2) grief in~~ ^{grievance, Gen. 50:11} ~~grievance, Gen. 50:11 ^{Abel} ~~Abel ^{may} ~~may ^{say} ~~say~~
^{(1) David} ~~(1) David~~ ^{"Why son, my son, weeps for me..."} ~~"Why son, my son, weeps for me..."
^{(1) Richard} ~~(1) Richard ^{weeps, refers} ~~weeps, refers ^{to} ~~to ^{children} ~~children ^{as} ~~as ^{not} ~~not.~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

(3) Does death make an enemy formidable?
Tears very slow. Car. ^{simple} ~~simple. Train - ^{short} ~~short - but
Foes - ^{death} ~~death
Probes the storm, land, air
Summit of Alps - ^{depth} ~~depth~~ ^{of} ~~of ^{mining} ~~mining
As a net for birds, a ^{skin} ~~skin~~ for fish~~~~~~~~~~

(4) Does death make an enemy formidable?
Other in modern. ^{contorted}. ^{delayed}. ^{stopped}. In partial
success, smoking ^{utiles}, ^{destroyed} ^{temples}, ^{palaces}. ^{predators} ^{of}
wood, hill, stone.

The declaration of death is ^{unthought} ~~unthought ^{of} ~~of ^{man} ~~man ^{himself}. Rev. 6:8
"Job here... makes death... as hell (space) followed with his."
Assails the body, tears it from the soul, ^{tramples} ~~tramples~~ ^{it} ~~it ^{into} ~~into ^{the} ~~the ^{death} ~~death.
Tears in pieces that ^{conceals} ~~conceals~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{body} ~~body ^{of} ~~of ^{the} ~~the ^{human} ~~human
body. ^{tears} ~~tears~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{silver} ~~silver ^{and} ~~and ^{breaks} ~~breaks ^{the} ~~the ^{golden} ~~golden ^{pitcher} ~~pitcher~~. All
other enemies stop at the grave. Not death. ^{enters} ~~enters~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{marry} ~~marry
the form, wonderful frame work, ^{God's} ~~God's ^{skill} ~~skill. ^{back} ~~back ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{worms} ~~worms~~.~~

A dervish (muslem mendicant with
vows of poverty and austerity) - so runs the
eastern legend - being overtaken by night,
while on a journey, entered the palace of a
king, and, mistaking it for an inn,
he lay down and went to sleep. The
guards arrested him, and carried him
into the royal presence. When the
monarch demanded the cause of this
unwarranted intrusion he answered:
"Sire, may I ask who dwells within
these walls before your majesty?"
"My father," replied the prince. "And
who before your father?" "His father."
"And who before him?" "His father."
"Who before him?" "A long
succession of illustrious ancestors."
"Ah, then," said the dervish, "after all,
I am right; I have made no
mistake, for a house which has so
often changed its inhabitants, is
not a palace, it is an inn."

4. The last enemy.

We may vanquish many foes, escape many dangers, but these are only skirmishes. The last enemy is still before us. There is a final hour by himself, awaits. No wisdom, no strategy, can avert the encounter.

5. An enemy to be feared, finally destroyed. Not yet destroyed but the final victory already in promise. Spiritually destroyed already.

(1) Christ Jesus in himself, Lord of life, his own death.

Jesus' daughter
Widow of Nain
Sagarus
Roses open at resurrection

(2) Sting, penalty taken away in Christ's death.

"you hath he purchased not with silver or gold, but with his own blood, a ransom for us, to purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Every shadow is removed, every coffin is shogged, every grave is dug by us. Penalty due to sin. Jesus paid the penalty. Deliver us. But not yet payment made. One more.

Death now a vanquished enemy. The tomb is a part of Christ's empire. Rev. 1:18. No longer fear, dread, a dismal prison. "Sleep in Jesus" awaiting the final day. Death now a losing of the sting, a being Christ's of ascent, a voice to come up higher.

Christ Jesus grappled with him in his own territory. Before the hands of death. Look like a dragon: sting from old 4th, built better.

But something yet to be. Death to be finally, irrevocably, wholly destroyed. "No more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more tears." "For we things passed away." "Death, hell went into the lake of fire."

to be destroyed LAST.

Just to live. Christ, self, death
Just to reach the V²
Just to be destroyed.

X² people, of pity, troubled by death. Live. Want to
vanquish death now. Dying place now. But no, not
LAST. And for body, grace - dying grace when
time comes. You every to be destroyed, only not today.
Let this one alone. In his time, he too. Take your
trials as they come, read your rank. Leave the last to the
last.

Then someday, that. The last enemy. Not another foe.
On resurrection in morn, same voice which said, "Lazarus
come forth" shall now be heard throughout the resurrection
of the dead - the sea. A mighty angel, one foot
on land, or in sea, never to lay that hand upon us
any, death no more. "Death swallowed up in victory."
Praise in every state.

"O death... O grave..." thoughts a question.
no. A challenge. Difficult. Faith in Christ says
"All things are yours whether life, death." Rom. 8:38
I Cor. 7:22
Faith sees beyond the shadow, the effort, the fear, sees the rest of
in heaven. Looks into the sepulchre, says, "By both sides
rise again."

A LETTER OF CONSOLATION

~~"... we are soon to follow..."~~

Philadelphia, February 23, 1756

238 years ago

I condole with you. We have lost a most dear and valuable relation. But it is the will of God ~~and nature,~~ that these mortal bodies be laid aside, when the soul is to enter into real life. This is rather an embryo state, a preparation for living.

A man is not completely born until he is dead. Why then should we grieve, that a new child is born among the immortals, a new member added to their happy society? We are spirits. That bodies should be lent us, while they can afford us pleasure, assist us in acquiring knowledge, or in doing good to our fellow creatures, is a kind and benevolent act of God. When they become unfit for these purposes, and afford us pain instead of pleasure, instead of an aid become an encumbrance, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given, it is equally kind and benevolent, that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them. Death is that way. We ourselves, in some cases, prudently choose a partial death. A mangled painful limb, which cannot be restored, we willingly cut off. He who plucks out a tooth, parts with it freely, since the pain goes with it; and he who quits the whole body, parts at once with all pains and possibilities of pains and diseases which it was liable to, or capable of making him suffer.

Our friend and we were invited abroad on a party of pleasure, which is to last forever. His chair was ready first, and he is gone before us. We could not all conveniently start together; and why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow, and know where to find him?

Adieu,

Benjamin Franklin, ~~1706-1790~~

OUR LORD IS DESTROYER OF DEATH

I. Death is an enemy.

The gloomy triad even before him: sin - law - death
With all his majestic language, not deny a terrible, awesome thing

- a monster, scorpion with terrible sting (15:56)
 - suggested by the law, strengthens death & sin, kill (15:56)
- The law of God makes sin stronger, stronger. Declares it, defines it, points it out. It puts white beside black.
- Law impersonal, invariable. Sin, law - death not removed by trans. removes, however, death. Law demands, must be satisfied.
- (2) The workman with his hand caught in the concrete mixer.
The soul that sins dies. wages, death. "In the day reaped, - die!"

II. Death is an universal enemy.

"O death, where ... ?" } alas! where are they not!
"O grave, where ... ?" } the sting of death is here.
The sting of the grave is everywhere

The great monuments of the world - to death.

- Westminster Abbey ..
- Church of the Innocents ..
- Hadrian's Tomb ... St Peter's .. St Paul's ..
- Appian way
- Pyramids
- Taj Mahal ... Cas. Muz. of Luxor & Shad Jahan
- Tombs of Emperors in Nara, Kyoto

Crowned monarch, ^{with} genius, mighty man, valiant, broken to the worm
Side by side, the sword on the spear
the scepter on the shield

What age, land, field without its ^{grass?} ~~country?~~
What city without its cemetery?

Neither God nor Vandal nor thief nor Tartar nor Base man
could have slain so mercilessly. No pity for young
No mercy for aged
No regard for just, beautiful

III. Death is a formidable enemy

Job 18: 14 "the king of terrors"
All fearful things - wind, tornado, storm, lightning, plague, cancer -
bore away their fearfulness from death. At his approach, it is
terrible, present monarch - the Pharaohs of Chalchoggan - great
folk. Heb. 2: 14, 15 while now in bondage - then fear of death.

Man has vanquished many foes
but death the lord of the organic living. Falls in the grave.
f. the four horsemen of the apocalyptic - white, conquest
- red, sword
- black, famine
- pale, death

IV. Death the last and ultimate enemy.

+ here, in a field chosen by himself, he awaits. No retreat,
no strategy, can avert that encounter.

The issue already decided. Vanquished. Destroyed.
Victory is not possible to man.

- (1) Sullen, contemptuous indifference is not victory.
f. films in electric chair, scene...
- (2) Skeptical sarcasm is not victory
(a) 1956 H. J. Mandel died. Cremated. ashes flung away.
"Since there is no reward for the damned, there fore they will
be no more."
- (3) Even manly, patriotic courage is not victory.
f. a warrior, crushed by superior numbers, refuses to yield a
groan, bearing blame of defiance to the last. An unconquerable
spirit. But he is not the victor.
f. soldiers charging up slope of defended rampart, brave
fearless - but cut down, mangled before rattling fire, bayonets.
No doubt who is the ^{actual} conqueror.

A battle we cannot win for ourselves. Somebody ... for us.
 of ? say: "I will stand up to this terrible enemy." Cut down.
 : "I will strike him with my fist." Fists fall away.
 : "I will reach him out in the gloom." Eyes less sockets
 : "I will shield my loved one." A prey myself: dead
 my mind dissolves
 my feet melt away
 my body falls in decay. } hopelessly conquered
 destroyed
 vanquished

V. An enemy to be finally, forever destroyed.
 Not now, not yet - but finally; last.

What token, assurance, reason, for this faith, persuasion?

1. In his person, our Savior is Lord of life and King over death.
 By his word. Jairus daughter, Tabitha risen
 Son of widow of Nain
 Lazarus, come forth

2. In his resurrection, Christ broke the bonds of death.
 Struggled with him in his own territory. "Tasted death for every man."
 Suffered to the utmost.
 What death could do.

The tomb is now a part of Christ's dominion. Rev. 1:18
 like a dragon, sting broken from its tail
 like an old lion, teeth broken
 mortally wounded. "Name he has but a scant name"

Death now for the χ : a loosening of the shroud
 : a chariot of ascent
 : a voice to carry us higher
 : a door into heaven

3. The pledge of our ultimate, final victory 15:23

Something yet to be.

Rev. 21:4 "no more death, neither sorrow nor crying"
20:14 "Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire."

To be destroyed LAST.

Last to come - Satan, sin, law, death
Last to reach the X
Last to be destroyed.

God's people troubled by fear, death. Fear. Want to vanquish death now.
Want dying grace now. No. not now. Last. Living grace now.
dying grace then. Yours every to be destroyed, only not today. puts
your trust as they come. Leave the last to the last.

Then, someday, this evening, too. The last. Not another for.
Faith, see beyond the shadow, grace - see the final victory.
look into the regular, says, "My brother shall rise again?"

On the resurrection morn same voice which said, "Izrael,
come forth & will resurrect throughout the profound depth of
earth, sea. A mighty angel, one foot on the sea, one foot
on the mo, says by his right hand forever & ever, the dead
shall be no more. Death shall swallow up victory &
Paradise, inconceivably.

D. Balau, Theatrical
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