

## **Facing the Last Enemy**

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### **Introduction**

We've considered the question, "What is death, according to the Scripture?" Now we'll build on that by asking, "How do we apply that truth as we encounter death in its many forms?" This week...

### **How do I Prepare for Death? This-Worldly Preparations**

Making practical preparations for our death is spiritual work, as these matters become ways for us to testify to our faith in Jesus Christ and express love to others

#### Preparing our family

- We can follow the Biblical pattern and leave parting words (Deut 33:1; Jn 16:4; Acts 20:22-25; 2 Tim 4:6-7)
  - Remind others of God's faithfulness
  - Point others to the promises of God
  - Call others to fellowship with God
- We can work to resolve any outstanding issues with others (Rom 12:18)

#### Preparing our worldly estates

- We have a responsibility to provide for our own (1 Tim 5:8)
- We can support kingdom-minded ministries

#### Preparing for the end of life

- Prepare for difficult or unforeseen circumstances. Tips:
  - Take advantage of recent publications by trusted authors
  - Seek Godly counsel early and often
  - Formulate your wishes and make them legal

- Prepare for difficult or unforeseen circumstances. Principles:
  - Unjust killing is always wrong (Deut 5:17). But letting die is not the same.
  - Learn to ask good questions of medical professionals
  - Death is inevitable. Rest in God's providence.
  - Often the best treatment is one that allows us to live out our final days in a dignified and comfortable way

Preparing for the funeral and burial

- Sparing our loved ones the burden of guessing what our wishes might be
- Burial or cremation? A matter of preference, with some Biblical guidelines
- Don't discount the witness of a service and the burial

*"When we plan properly and in advance we demonstrate love to those around us. This will point others to the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful gift we can give from beyond the grave."*