

Facing the Last Enemy

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Why Do Christians Die?

Christians still die. But Jesus has transformed death for us in two basic ways: He has both taken something away and added something, completely transforming the experience of death for the believer.

- We will be delivered from death on the last day (Heb 2:14-15), and have begun to experience that deliverance even now (1 Cor 15:55)
- God's love for us is demonstrated in our death. It is not good in itself, but it is something He appoints for our good (Rom 8:28)
 - At death God frees us from the presence, influence, and effects of sin (Heb 12:22-23)
 - At death God brings us to a place of intimate communion with Christ in glory (Phil 1:21-24)
- Because of what God gives and takes away, we can say that death is for the good of every believer (Rev 14:13)

How do we face the fears that tempt us in the face of death?

- The fear of readiness: Remember the righteousness of our Savior (2 Cor 5:21)
- The fear of loss: Remember that the day of our death is not accidental (Ps 139:16)
- The fear of pain: Remembering that although we are not promised an absence of trials (Eccl 9:2) Jesus identifies with us and is present with us

How can we prepare well for the inevitability of death?

- Think about it more, not less. Look at it through the eyes of the Gospel so you can meet it as God intends (2 Cor 5:6-8)
- Think of the gain that will be ours in death (Eccl 7:1)
- Think on Christ, the faith friend who is with us now and waiting for us there (Jn 14:3)