

The Last Enemy

by Wayne Goff

“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:26)

Death affects us all. Every day we live is a day closer to our exit from this life. It is *“the last enemy.”* It robs us of our loved ones. We can no longer hear their voice, nor can they hear ours. We cannot see them; they are gone from our presence. But for the Christian, all this is temporary.

The **hope of eternal life** is real because Jesus Christ was raised up from the dead. He destroyed Satan’s power over man by destroying the effects of sin and death, Heb. 2:14-15. Consequently, we may confidently lay our loved ones to rest, knowing that one day their lifeless body will be victoriously raised up again!

“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’”

(1 Corinthians 15:54–55).

But for now, we suffer the effects of physical death. We weep, grieve, mourn and miss our loved ones. We wonder why that one had to suffer and die. We contemplate our own mortality and wonder when our day of death will arrive. *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”* (Heb. 9:27). We are all going down the valley, one by one.

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus” (1 Thess. 4:13–14).

The Christian who dies is not hopelessly dead, but *“sleeping.”* It is a peaceful, temporary sleep that will one day be disturbed by the second coming of the Lord and the voice of the archangel, and the dead in Christ shall rise first! **Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

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