

## Death Be Not Proud

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by Wayne Goff

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

By now everyone is aware of the passing of two loved ones this past week. **Gil Mudgett**, a former brother here, husband of Sandy Mudgett, and relative by marriage to the extended Morrell family, passed away on Thursday, May 10. Then on Friday, May 11, Laura McWilliams' sister, **Kim Francis**, passed away after a two-year battle with cancer. Our hearts grieve with these families at the loss of loved ones, yet we have the hope of eternal life in view as well. We pray for the families at this time of earthly loss.

Death is one of those horrible things that we prefer to keep in the back of our minds, and away from conscious thought while we enjoy our lives here upon the earth. The apostle Paul called it **“the last enemy,”** and so it is! It robs us of our loved ones, wrecks homes, breaks hearts, and rends earthly ties. We shall see them no more this side of the Lord's second coming! Death is an enemy of all mankind, and people die every single day. But when death invades our circle of loved ones, then we are made acutely aware of just what an awful enemy both death and Satan have been! Solomon reminded us of the sobering thought of death, and bids us to consider our own destiny (Ecclesiastes 7:2). *“The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,...”* (Ecclesiastes 7:4).

When I was a teenager, I read a book entitled ***Death Be Not Proud***, by John Gunther. It was the first time that I was made truly aware that death comes to young people as well as the old. Reading that book and the young man's struggle with his own disease and death gave me chills and grief that I had never experienced before as a young person. Like all other youths, I felt invincible at that age — or if I wasn't invincible, I wasn't worried about it either! But all of that changed when I read this book.

Death is a constant enemy of mankind. Until Jesus Christ returns, we will experience death all around us, and within our family circle. Death is the consequence of sin which first came into the world through Adam and Eve. It is the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26). It is also the result of spiritual death, having been separated from God by our sins (Isaiah 59:1-2). Thank God that Jesus Christ came and died on the cross for our sins! Thank God that Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the third day, conquering death and releasing us from the *“fear of death”* that caused us all to feel that horrible *“bondage”* (Heb. 2:15). Jesus Christ has given us all hope — eternal hope — and I pray that each one reading this today will give serious thought to their eternal destiny. Are you prepared to meet the Lord, dear friend?

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