

Hebrews 2.14-15

Death and The Devil Destroyed

I. WE ARE SUBJECT TO DEATH

- a. Naturally we are going to die - death is the consequence our rebellion against God

Genesis 2.17

- b. Morally –

- i. death is a punishment which we deserve

Romans 1.32

Romans 2.15

Ephesians 2.3

- ii. **Fear** of death drives us

- 1. It is a bondage

- a. Even those who deny the penal aspect of death, consider it to be the worst thing that can happen to us, it is the great destroyer.
 - b. Bondage is involuntary - you are not bound by your own free will, but you are subject to it. You may have taken the bond on willingly, but you do not desire to maintain it
 - c. This bond, like all, galls you. We desire to be free of it and we writhe and twist seeking a way out
2. It destroys us mentally and spiritually long before it takes us physically.

Hebrews 10.27

- a. It torments us mentally, there is no escaping the thought of it. It is always on our minds, and always lurking just around the corner of our imagination.

b. Spiritually it fills us with anger against God, although we know we deserve it, we are also rebellious and angry against the God who would allow death to be a part of this world.

3. It torments us all the days of our lives.

II. JESUS JOINED US TO FREE US

a. He joined us in dying

i. He took the nature of man upon Himself, becoming subject to physical death

1. He took His part and took it into the Divine nature that He already possessed, we ONLY possess the human, but Jesus possesses both.

a. It is important to note that the taking of this nature is vital for it made Him our kinsman-redeemer. He could not just have become a man, He had to be

incarnate, born of woman, so that He was truly one of us...thus the right of redemption is His.

- b. This is the most awesome and beautiful display of grace, mercy and love which ever has been... it compels angels to "long" to look into it... it causes the heavens to rejoice and the whole throne room of heaven to be still and watch!
2. We are subject to the infirmities and torments of death because we are in BONDAGE to it, but Jesus was not bound in that manner. By taking it willingly, and by being free of the taint that comes from being justly bound by death, He had power over it.
- ii. He willingly and lovingly took on our nature (excepting only sin itself) so that He could deliver us from it...
 - 1. He did this in love

Ephes 5.30

2. He did this with joy
 3. He did this intentionally
 4. He did this purposefully
 5. He did this powerfully
- iii. This great love of Christ should absolutely constrain us to serve and worship Him, and to love Him with utter abandon all the days of our lives
- b. He freed us BY dying
- i. By His death, He broke the chains that made death a bondage. It no longer holds fear for those who are in Christ
 1. This was His primary purpose, He did not come to reign, but to die.
 - a. He made peace between God and man

Romans 5.1

Ephesians 2.14-15

2Cor 5.19-21

2. He destroyed the enemy. Satan no longer holds any power...

Genesis 3.15 - this was foretold from the very beginning!

John 12.31

Colossians 2.15

Psalms 68.18

III. THE POWER OF HIS VICTORY

His death then becomes the most powerful thing in all the world, past present or future. It changes everything. The implications of how we now live are huge.

a. Without fear of death = without fear of anything but God

i. NO need to hide and run

- ii. We can storm the very gates of hell and deliver those who are being destroyed for WE cannot be harmed.
 - iii. If we die, what is actually US is safe and secure
 - iv. No power on earth can touch us for our real harm
 - v. Anything this life throws is only passing
- b. It should be very clear to all who see us that we are not scared of the things that scare them. We, who are of Christ, should always be the first to step into the gap that terrifies others, for we are ultimately SAFE in the arms of the beloved.