



*Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.*

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### “Death: A Separation”

What lies around the corner? Maybe you see a shadow, maybe you catch a glimpse. Maybe you take a quick peak and then pull back.

People in the unbelieving world say that they cheat death when they are spared from it. They think they “got away with it” when they do not repent and lightning did not strike them dead. The true believer overcomes death. The true believer gains God’s perspective from His Word.

Death separates, whether it be the closing of a chapter in our lives or making a radical breach with something God hates, that He might fill us with Himself, with the Holy Spirit. We separate from that we might be separated unto. The true believer separates from sin unto God inasmuch as Christ is the believer’s life. The unbeliever is already dead in trespasses and sin and, rejecting Christ who is life, and failing to repent, dies in his sins to face the judgment of God and the just punishment of the Second Death.

We must face death squarely that we might know the value of the gift Christ gives, eternal life in Him. There is a physical death and a spiritual death. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is separation from God (Ephesians 4:18), the Source and Sustainer of Life (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13). The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death, by the law of faith. (Romans 8)

Death may come suddenly, but mostly it is a slow process. Every time we sin there is a little death. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We talk about the toxins, the poisons, the splinters, the annoying changes as we age. Articles and advertisements abound on all kinds of health issues, from mental health to physical health to emotional health to spiritual health, even to the place of economic health relative thereto.

Paul said he died daily. Every day his life was in danger. Every day he identified himself with Christ crucified and pressed to the high calling of Christ, to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship (experience) of His sufferings.

We are all dying daily. Either we succumb to the disease, ailment, illness, sickness, malady, malignancy, weakness, whatever, and fear what's around the corner or we fight the good fight of faith with the sure hope of the Word of God.

Paul said he died daily, but what did that mean when he said it? Amazingly, this is in 1 Corinthians 15, verse 31:

**Every day I die, by boasting in you, brothers which I have in Christ Jesus, the Lord of us.**

Every day there is a dying away from, a separation, the ending of what is former to bring what follows, be it a natural following or divine closure. Paul met death daily; he lived daily in danger of death.

Death separates.

*Real separation, to me, is the death of love.*

*Any other – parting – well, it just isn't real.*

Josephine Lawrence c. 1936.

But look at this.

**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written, For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us...Romans 8:35-37 (Psalm 44:22)**

What's the mindset?

And now, **compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing** what will happen to me there. **I only know** that in town after town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions await me. But I consider my life of no value to myself; **if only I may finish my course** and complete the ministry I have received from the Lord Jesus, the ministry of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24.

What was God doing? For what purpose?

**Indeed we felt we were under the sentence of death, in order that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.** (2 Corinthians 1:9) We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus in order that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our **mortal bodies**. So then, death is at work in us but life is at work in you. (2 Corinthians 4:10-12) ...dying and yet we live on...(2 Corinthians 6:9)

Separation. Sin separates us from a holy God who is of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity (sins of the heart; the bent of the heart toward evil). Nevertheless, when a person is born again, born anew, born from above, born out of God, he/she is crucified with Christ and yet nevertheless lives, yet not the person but Christ lives in that person. True believers live by the faith of Jesus, who loved them and gave Himself for them. (See Galatians 2:20) We are

separated from sin and unto God, who gives life. So certain things must go/die that life may come. In this kind of separation, we are raised to new life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit according to the love of God. This is a gracious process, and one in which we may participate by cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit in sanctification.

Death separates. Not only is there a dying to self, of which Jesus taught and to which Paul testifies, but our lives are daily in danger of death, i.e., our mortal bodies. Paul lived this out. Paul's goal was to glorify God in his body, whether by life or by death.

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor; yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better...Philippians 1:19-22

Rejoice in the proclamation of Jesus Christ. Worship Him because of who He is. Our future as to our life on this earth and as to our mortality may be uncertain (to us), but not our joy, not our certainty that there is a resurrection, not our certainty in the hope of the Word of God. We believe in the resurrection of the body. Christ is exalted in the body, whether by life or by death. We are living out the life of Christ now, fellowshiping in His sufferings (all He experienced) while growing in the process of knowing Him and the power of His resurrection. His righteousness has been imputed to us and our sin to Him, an act of justification followed by impartation, sanctification, imitation, until we partake fully in the estate of glorification upon our physical death.

We fight the good fight of faith, contending for the faith, trusting God to preserve us, knowing that of all those the Father has given Him, Christ will lose none. Believing that “unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Every time we die to sin, die to the passions of the flesh, die to self, die to trusting in the Law (doing the works of the Law in order to be saved)...we are raised to life, raised in the power of the Holy Spirit, raised to walk in the Spirit, according to the Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Every time we die, we experience the power of the resurrection. And we live.

In this process we also understand that Jesus owns us and our lives are not our own, that whatever our days, whatever is around the corner, God is near. Our days may be suffering and adversity or times of refreshing and gladness; whatever each day may be, God is near. That means we have the supply of the Holy Spirit, and this should encourage us and give us strong hope.

We have died and our life is hid with Christ in God. We are being raised into new life whenever we die to the things that bring death. There are blessings we have now, but the greater blessings are those that await us after we physically die. That's why Paul says, “to die is gain.” He's not

talking about the taking of one's own life, for that denies the sovereignty of God, but of the greater blessings of eternity. Read for yourself all of 1 Corinthians 15 and Philippians 1.

Everyone will be raised. Everyone will face an eternal destiny, either of eternal life in/with Christ or eternal punishment. Jesus Christ is alive and ruling with all power and dominion and glory.

What lies around the corner? We may not know the specifics. But let's now ask, "Who lies around the corner?" We know that for certain: Jesus Christ is there waiting for us. He's here, and He's there. As we die, we live; vital spiritual union, common union strengthens in the separation process of death. For the unbelieving, there awaits a Second Death. The worm never dies. Death for the unbelieving brings irreversible separation from the living God, the Source and Supplier of all Life and Blessing.

What is it that the unbelieving fail to believe? They fail to believe that eternal life comes through the Promise, namely the Promised One, the Promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, God the Son. They fail to believe all that the scriptures, all that Moses and the Prophets, had foretold. They fail in their pride to "come to Jesus" that He might give them eternal life. They walk their own way, when Jesus is the Way.

For those justified in Christ, believing Him, He will never leave us or forsake us, not even when we are separated from our life on this Earth. What can separate us from the love of Christ? Not death...*for love is stronger than death, passion fiercer than the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. Song of Songs 8:6, 7.*

Think about what was around the corner for Jesus as you remember the LORD's death, burial, and resurrection. Then rejoice! His Name is Flame of Yah.

Proclaiming the Victory of Christ,

*Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D. Min.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors  
Through Him that loved us.  
For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor  
Principalities nor powers, nor things present,  
Nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any  
Other creature, shall be able to separate us  
From the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

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