TESTIMONIES OF THE DYING

***Written By: Tommy Romans April 2018***

**When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden and broke God’s Law, physical and spiritual Death passed upon the whole human race. Because of sin, death reigned and became the dreaded king of terrors. It ruled, it held every soul captive and every person in its clutches. It took their bodies to the grave and their soul down to Hell. Death is mean and cruel. It has no respect of persons. You can’t stop it, out run it or hide from it. There is no escape from death, no way to appease it, or to win its war. You can’t pay death off or offer a ransom to stay its hand. There isn’t anything more ugly than death! We see its hideous results all around us. Not only do we see the physical bodies of man eaten away by dreaded sickness, frailties and disease but we see the effects of sin that eats away at the soul bringing it down to eternal spiritual death which is far far worse. This awful foul monster is the greatest thing in this whole world to fear. Because of Sin, it holds unbreakable power and Satan owns it. The only way you can win against Death is through our Lord Jesus who conquered it. He overcame Death, Hell and the Grave for us so we wouldn’t have to fear it.**

**Physical Death is a Most beautiful thing if you know the Lord Jesus Christ and have made Him your Saviour. It is the door to everlasting life beyond this vale of sorrows down here. Death for the Christian is just a temporary shadow that opens up to the celestial, ushering your soul into the Eternal Glory of God.**

**On the other hand, Death is the most horrible and fearful thing you could ever face if you don’t know God in the pardon and remission of sins, and if you’ve never asked Jesus into your heart to be your Lord. Death is beautiful for a Child of God who has lived a saintly life. Oh, but that hopeless and dark side of an unbelieving heart and life that has rejected God and His mercy! No one can doubt that death is inescapable. Do you remember the words that God has spoken, “… it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment?” (Hebrews 9:27).**

**In this Newsletter, I’m going to give you some true documented stories of people when it came time for them to die, of what they saw, felt and heard and what they said as they were crossing into eternity and leaving this world in death. Dying experiences of people are overwhelming and it causes us to stand up and take notice. We all will face it if Jesus tarries. It pays to be ready when it comes time for you to die and cross over into eternity! Human emotions are powerful and none of us can live and die without these emotions. Our present generation has mainly escaped the horror of being unprepared for death by the use of drugs to kill all pain.**

**Sadly, the beauty of a Godly death is also lost in our drug culture. The new “right” of the health world is the right to be free of pain. In most cases, the pain or joy is simply transferred to the immediate moments after death. We are spared both the joy of dying Christians and the screams of the unsaved sinner by numbing pain killing drugs. In other words – today, we don’t have the testimonies of the dying like we had hundreds of years ago. The bodies are filled now with morphine and high-powered pain killers that keep people sedated and they die in their sleep.**

**Our Bible teaches us the beauty of a saint’s death, Psalms 116:15 - Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Isaiah spoke by prophecy of the triumph that Jesus Christ would accomplish over death, “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces. Apostle Paul echoed this great prophecy, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:55-57).**

**(A young man) that had put off the call of the Holy Ghost and blasphemed Him, lie dying. His doctor had pleaded that he repent. Burying his face in his pillow he stated, “Oh! I have missed it at last” and then he died.**

 **(A young lady) wonderfully saved in a great revival became ill and had bid all her loved ones a happy goodbye. As she was dying, she joyfully told her sisters, “Don’t weep for me, Jesus is with me, I will not have to go alone.” She looked up as if seeing someone special coming for her and then said, “Come on, I am ready to go.” She was gone!**

**THE WITNESS CHRISTIANS LEAVE BEHIND**

The saints of God have certainly left behind a blessed assurance that death is but a crossing over to Glory.  It is not a grave but a graduation!  The final words of the saints supply an exciting reassurance that Christ has indeed removed the sting of death for His people.  In their triumph, we can find peace in knowing that death is merely a bridge between this life and eternal life with Jesus.

Our Bible is the written Word of God and it must be believed and accepted by faith.  If any other information supports or denies its validity, the Word of God will still stand alone as absolute truth.  However, one of the most convincing arguments that reinforces the truth of the Holy Scriptures is the recorded last words of dying men and women, saved and unsaved.

Many saints approaching eternity have left behind breath-taking descriptions of the beauties of Heaven.  Testimonies of the lost stepping into the horror of an eternity without Christ have also been recorded on the pages of history.  Let us travel for a moment to the edge of eternity and view through the eyes of these dying mortals what lies beyond the vale of life upon earth.  Listen intently to the last words of both saints and sinners. **Revelation 14:13** - "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:  Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours;  and their works do follow them.”

(**John Owen**) Was a Puritan Church leader who died in 1683. In dying, he said - "I am going to Him whom my soul loveth, or rather who has loved me with an everlasting love, which is the sole ground of all my consolation."

(**Phillip Otterbein**) was a German evangelist and Pastor whose dying words were: “The conflict is over and past. I begin to feel an unspeakable fullness of love and peace divine. Lay my head upon my pillow and be still.” He died while pastoring – November-17th1813.

 (**George Whitefield**) Whitefield was suffering from chronic Asthma. On his way to Newburyport Massachusetts to preach his last sermon, his friend Mr. Clarkson told him he needed more to go to bed than to preach. Whitefield answered – true sir, then lifted up his eyes in prayer and said - "Lord Jesus, I am weary in thy work, but not of thy work.  If I have not yet finished my course, let me go and speak for Thee once more in the fields, seal the truth, and come home to die."  He died Sept. 30th 1770.

(**George Fox**) was the founder of the religious society called the Quakers. These people believed in the moving of the Holy Ghost and would tremble, shake and quake in their meetings when they sang, prayed and worshipped. In his final words, Fox said “All is well, and the seed of God reigns over all, and over death itself.” He died in 1691.

 (**Dr. William Carey**), He is known as the father of modern day missions and was the beloved Missionary to India, said, “When I am gone, speak less of Dr. Carey, and more of Dr. Carey’s Savior.” He died in the service of God in 1834.

(**Susanah Wesley**) was the heralded mother of two of the greatest preachers in history - John and Charles Wesley as well as 17 other children. She said, “Children, when I am gone, sing a song of praise to God.” In other words – My work is finished, it was not in vain – God has blessed my efforts in raising you. Though she never preached a sermon or published a book, she is known as the Mother of the Methodists. Her beloved sons started the great Methodist movement where hundreds of thousands of souls were born into the Kingdom of God. She died in 1742.

(**Pastor Edward Perronet**) He was a preacher and follower of the Wesley’s. He wrote the song – “All hail the power of Jesus’ name.” Nearing death he said - “Glory to God in the height of His divinity! Glory to God in the depths of His humanity! Glory to God in His all-sufficiency! Into His hands I commend my spirit.” He went home in 1792.

(**Adoniram Judson**) – was Missionary to Burma for 40 years. He started out when he was 25 years old. He was the one that gave the Bible to the Burmese people in southeast Asia. As a 14 year old boy he lay dangerously ill. He wondered about his future and what course it would take when one day he was suddenly awakened and shocked nearly out of his bed when he heard a voice which said – “Not unto us, not unto us, but to thy name be the glory.” He would remember that revelation for the rest of his life. Judson got saved when he was 20. During the Anglo – Burmese war, Judson spent 21 months in prison. He translated the Bible into Burmese for the people. Judson uttered these words - “I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school.” He went to his reward – April 12, 1850.

**(John Knox)** the great fearless preacher to the people of Scotland assured others, “Live in Christ and the flesh need not fear death.” He died of a heart attack in 1572.

**(John Wesley)** had a passion for souls and traveled in excess of 250,000 miles on horseback, delivering 40,000 sermons. During his 54 years of ministry, he averaged over 4500 miles a year. Think of riding around the globe on horseback 12 times. He preached not less than 15 sermons a week, mostly outdoors. What if you preached two sermons every day and three every Sunday for 54 years?! When getting ready to die, he bade his loved ones, “The best of all is God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!” He died March 2nd, 1791.

**(Charles Wesley)** suffered from exhaustion and as he was getting ready to leave this world for his reward, expressed his peace in saying, “I shall be satisfied with thy likeness - - satisfied, satisfied!” Well done Charles. He was widely known for his prolific hymn writing – penning thousands of songs. He died in 1788. These two Wesley brothers started the Methodist movement.

Songwriter, (**Frances Havergal)**, the English poet and religious song writer who also wrote religious tracts and works for children. She wrote the two songs: “Take my life and let it be” and “I gave my life for thee” on the final day of her life in 1879, asked a friend to read to her from the 42nd chapter of Isaiah. When she had read the 6th verse, “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee.” Miss Havergal stopped her. “Called – held – kept,” she whispered. “I can go home on that!” And she did.

(**Dr. R. G. Lee)** was a great pulpit preacher during the 20th century.  He was known for his ability to paint vivid, Spiritual pictures with his powerful preaching.  Many claimed that Dr. Lee, through the Spirit of God, could make the invisible seem to be just in sight.  He so dramatically portrayed the Lord and the eternal Home of the saints of God.  Yet when Dr. Lee was dying, he suddenly opened his eyes and said to his wife, "I see Heaven!  Oh...I didn't do it justice!  I see JESUS!  I didn't do HIM justice!" He died victorious in 1978.

What a treasured inheritance these dying saints have left on our behalf – the assurance that death is but a crossing over to Glory, not to a grave but to a graduation! Their last words are an exciting reassurance that Christ has indeed removed the sting of death for those who are found in Him. In their triumph we can find the peace of knowing death is merely the bridge between this life here and eternal life with Christ for those who have been redeemed. A Child of God has nothing to fear in leaving this world!

**SINNERS LAST DYING WORDS**

 The last words of those dying in their sins is utterly horrifying!  It is terrible to examine the final words of those who began a Christ-less eternity at the end of a godless life. They spent their lifetime in vain without ever serving God, never knew His saving grace! They never saw their need for a Saviour, did not believe in or want our Lord Jesus Christ.

**(Sir Thomas Scott Chancellor of England**) Died in 1594. He declared while dying - "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a Hell.  Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."

\*A noted infidel self-professed atheist by the name of (**Phillip Adams**) He claimed that there is NO GOD and no life after death. He assumed that religion is a failure – Quote – “I have spent a lifetime attacking religious beliefs and have not wavered from my view that this universe is meaningless and void of Deity.” He uttered these last words – “I’m lost! Lost! Lost! I’m Damned! Damned forever!” His agony was so terrible that he tore his hair from his head as he passed into eternity.

**(Gandhi)** – A leader of civil rights in India died in 1948. 15 years before his death he made this statement praising Hinduism – “I must tell you in all humility that Hinduism, as I know it…entirely satisfies my soul, fills my whole being and I find solace in the Bhagavad and the Upanishads.” But Shortly before his death he wrote:  “My days are numbered, I am not likely to live much longer, perhaps a year or more…For the first time in 50 years I find myself in the slough of despond…All about me is darkness; I am praying for light.”

(**Charles IX King of France**) died of Tuberculosis in 1574. He was responsible for ordering the great massacre that took place on St. Bartholomew's Day.  On his dying day, Charles cried, "O What blood!  What murders!  I know not where I am.  How will all this end?  What shall I do? I am lost forever and I know it!”

(**Sir Francis Newport**) He was trained in early life to understand the great truths of the gospel. It was hoped that when he got older he would become a blessing to his family and nation. He went to college and studied law. He fell into bad company that corrupted his morals and became an avowed infidel. He became the head of an English atheist club. A dreaded disease hit him. As he was dying in 1623 he said – “Why this war in my heart? What argument is there now to assist me against matters of fact?  Do I assert that there is no hell while I feel one in my own bosom?  That there is a God I know, because I continually feel the effect of His wrath.  That there is a hell, I am equally certain, having received an earnest of my inheritance already in my own breast.  Oh!  That I was to lie a thousand years upon the fire that is never quenched to purchase the favor of God, and be reunited to Him again!  But it is a fruitless wish.  Millions and millions of years will bring me no nearer to the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh eternity! Eternity! Oh!  The insufferable pangs of hell!  Oh Eternity!  Forever and forever!"

Death is no respecter of persons, even for royalty. On her deathbed, (**Elizabeth I, Queen of England)**, said, “All my possessions for a moment of time.” Her riches, her crown and fame could not save her or buy her more time when it came time to die. “I would give it all for a little while longer….!” **(Princess Diana)**, following that horrific car accident in a Paris tunnel, was heard to say right before she died - “My God, what happened?” In other words – is this it? I have come face to face with death and I’m not ready! What a numbing horrible fear when your life is ending and you go into the darkness of the unknown unprepared to meet God!

The sad reality is that every infidel whose last words can be found recorded expressed unimaginable grief and fear of death.  Recorded History tells the story of the renowned atheist, (**Francois Voltaire)**, one of the most aggressive antagonists of Christianity. He wrote many things to undermine the church, and once said of Jesus Christ, “Curse the wretch. In 20 years, Christianity will be no more. My single hand will destroy the edifice it took 12 apostles to rear.” Needless to say, Voltaire was less than successful. And on his deathbed, a nurse who attended him was reported to have said, “For all the wealth in Europe, I would not see another atheist die.”

The physician, waiting up with Voltaire at his death, said that he cried out with utter desperation, “I am abandoned by God and man. I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months of life. Then I shall go to hell and you will go with me, oh, Christ, oh, Jesus Christ!”

**The noted French atheist, (Voltaire), died a frightening death in 1778. For two months he was tortured with such an agony as led him at times to gnash his teeth in impotent rage against God and man. At other times in plaintive accents, he would plead, “O, Christ! O, Lord Jesus!” Then, turning his face, he would cry out, “I must die-abandoned of God and of men!”**

**As his end drew near, his condition became so frightful that his infidel associates were afraid to approach his bedside. Still they guarded the door, that others might not know how awfully an infidel was compelled to die. Even his nurse repeatedly said, “For all the wealth of Europe I would never see another infidel die.” It was a scene of horror that lies beyond all exaggeration. Such is the well-attested end of the one who had a natural sovereignty of intellect, excellent education, great wealth, and much earthly honor.” *(Dying Testimonies of Saved and Unsaved by Rev. S B Shaw, pp. 49-50.)***

We all have a DATE with DEATH!  All of us are born on death row.  Most people are scared to death of dying.  They do not want to talk about it or be talked to about it. We have no way of knowing the date of our death.  Everybody knows their BIRTHDAY but nobody knows their day of Death! The Bible teaches us that death is an appointment (Hebrews 9:27).  Unlike all other appointments, death is one that cannot be rescheduled.  Our Bible, God’s Holy Word, teaches us that death is NOT the end.  After death there will be a judgment.  The saints of God will be clothed in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.  The lost sinner will stand with his sins open before the Almighty God and be sentenced to their eternal condemnation. Examining the last words of saints and sinners causes me to say with the prophet in **Numbers 23:10** - "Let me die the death of the righteous. Let my last end be like theirs!” The child of God does not have to fear the day of death.  No Christian has ever been recorded recanting in torment in their dying hours but saw a Glorious Light!

Apostle **Paul’s** last words were: I have fought a good fight; I have finished my Course; I have kept the Faith and there’s a crown awaiting! **Stephen’s** last words: Behold, I see the Heavens opened and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. (He’s beckoning me to come!) **Jesus’** last words: It is finished. Father, into thy hands I commit my Spirit. (I am finished with the work you called me to do. I’m coming Home.) It is recorded that the poor man **Lazarus**, when he died, was carried by the Angels into Paradise in Abraham’s bosom. No doubt, he saw the royal Heavenly escorts coming for him. The **Rich Man** no doubt cried out in fear of agony as he was dying when he saw Hells demons coming to drag his eternal soul down into outer darkness, to Hell, to be tormented forever in its flames.

 To you who are reading this, WHAT WILL BE YOUR LAST WORDS? Mine are: Even so, Come Quickly Lord Jesus, I’m ready! I’m longing to go to my Home in Heaven! Are you ready? Do you know Jesus? Have you got Him in your Heart? Make Him your Lord and Saviour today!!

A preacher friend of mine who was an EMT on ambulance calls, told me of a call he got to a house of a beautiful teenage girl who was dying of an overdose of drugs. Her eyes were wide in fear. She began kicking the covers off the bed, crying my feet are on fire, my feet are on fire! He told me of another call to an elderly woman bad sick. They loaded her up and while gong to the Hospital, she asked him – do you hear that beautiful music? No, he said. She kept hearing a heavenly choir and beautiful music. She told the preacher she had been a Christian for many years and was ready to go! As they were pushing her through the doors to the hospital, the Lord called her home. She was right at Heavens door, so close, she could hear the praises to our Wonderful God and Saviour! O Praise His Wonderful Name! He is Precious! Pray to Him Children, call on Him now! He is waiting for you!!! This thing is real dear reader. Eternity is one breath away. Heaven is real! And so is Hell – it is forever with NO END! Where will you be a Million years from Now? May God Bless all my Readers!