

“GOD CAN!” (Part 7)

“Conquer Death”

INTRO: In a series on the unlimited power of God, which is available. God CAN. He can do anything consistent with His character.

REVIEWING: Save the Lost, Secure the Saved, Satisfy our Needs, Strengthen the Tempted, Subdue our Enemies

TODAY: Maybe the greatest enemy of all—DEATH! God CAN (HAS) conquer death. B. Franklin . . . (Rev. 1:17-18; John 11:25-26). Daniel’s friends (3:16-17). Daniel himself (6:20). Life expectancy has been dropping due to suicide, opioids, and Covid 19—about 80 average. About 2.75 mm/yr (add Covid). In Orange County about one/hour. Psalm 89:48 asks, “What man can live and never see death?” So far only two: Enoch and Elijah. Dying is universal. But in Christ, God CAN conquer death and grant us eternal life with Him.

I. THE REALITY OF DEATH

A. The ENTRANCE of death – Death not part of God’s original plan. God warned Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:17). They disobeyed God (Gen. 3:6). The Fall resulted and Adam was cursed to die (Gen. 3:19). Adam died (Gen. 5:5). Death entered as a result of the sin and Fall (Rom. 5:12; 6:23). “When Adam sinned what happened?”

- “When Adam sinned what happened?” To understand death, we need to see how God made us (1 Thess. 5:23) . . . He died immediately in his spirit and was separated from God (Gen. 2:7; 3:8). He died progressively in his soul and ultimately in his physical body (Gen. 5:5).
- “What happens when come to Christ?” Saved immediately in our spirit (Holy Spirit indwells). Being saved and become more like Christ in our souls (sanctification). Ultimately saved in our bodies, receiving glorified one fit for eternity (glorification).

B. The EXTENT of death was to *all mankind* (except for Enoch, Elijah, and those to be Raptured). Not only did Adam die, but the nature of sin and its end is death spread to all (Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Ezek. 18:4; Jam. 1:15). Unless Jesus comes, death is an appointment all must keep (Heb. 9:27).

ILL: J. Bayly...

C. The ENEMY of death (1 Cor. 15:25-26). Death is the “final enemy.” It brings fear (Heb. 2:14-15). It is “the king of terrors” (Job 18:14). It can stalk us. **ILLUS:** Kevin’s death . . .

II. THE ABILITY OF CHRIST

A. He DEFEATED death during His earthly life to preview His coming kingdom. Three times Jesus raised the dead to demonstrate His ability to conquer death.

1. only child and son of a widow, raised at his own funeral procession (Lk. 7:11-17).
2. a little girl who was the only daughter of a Synagogue ruler (Lk. 8:40-42, 49-56) - raised immediately after death
3. an adult man (Lazarus), close friend of Jesus, an only brother, raised after burial (Jn. 11).

All three had one thing in common. Each was dead and needed physical life. Jesus described as “sleeping” – transition not destination.

B. He DESTROYED death through His own victorious resurrection. His resurrection is foundation of Christian faith, mentioned over 100 times in NT (1 Cor. 15:20-26). He has destroyed “the last enemy”. See Rom. 8:11, 37-39; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:54-57. The power of death and its sting has been rendered ineffective. This does not mean Christians don’t die, just don’t have to be afraid of the “king of terrors.” What must I do? John 11:25-26... To reject the resurrected Christ is to commit spiritual and eternal suicide. T. Keller on Resurrection . . .

C. One day death will completely DISAPPEAR (Rev. 20:13-14; 21:4). No more death.

ILL: D.L. Moody... Arthur Brisbane...

III. THE PRACTICALITY OF DEATH

Death can be a great teacher (Eccl. 7:2-4). If life after death is a reality, “How then should we live?” 1 Cor. 15:57-58. Be thankful (v. 57), Stand true (v. 58), Work hard (v. 58). No wonder Psalmist wrote Psa. 116:15...

CONC: God can conquer our greatest and most feared enemy—death! Jesus prayed not to die (Matt. 26:39; Heb. 5:7). Since we started about 5 Americans per minute have died. Sobering thought, one day, unless Christ comes, we’ll be in that five. But through Christ, God CAN.

ILLUS: Old man, “I know . . .!” So do we KNOW CHRIST! NO FEAR!

B. Graham (d. 2/21/18) ... Enough to make you want to shout. Eph. 3:20...