Fear

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 12:4-5, "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ve shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

To be afraid is a terrible thing, but at some time it happens to all of us. It is also true that each person has different things that he fears more than others. For some it might be the fear of failure, or of being embarrassed in front of people. Death is certain to be the most common as well as being the most feared thing that man faces.

The Lord tells us that there is one fear that we should have that is more important than all others and that is to fear God. Many of the things that we fear and worry about don't ever happen in our lives, but that hasn't stopped us from the worry and fear just the same. When and if the things that we fear do happen, then we deal with them and go on as best we can. Often we find that the Lord blessed us and that they weren't as bad as we thought that they would be.

However death can come and in many different ways to end our time here on earth. We know that if the Lord doesn't come before the time of our death that we will have to experience it for ourselves. When it is thought of in some distant future we don't worry about it much, if at all. If a person is in some dangerous position in some work, or in a war situation, then he has to think about it. Some are threatened by other people with death such as criminal acts. Jesus told us plainly that we need not fear death if we are saved and trusting in Him.

There is only one to fear if we are a Christian and living for the Lord Jesus. That is to fear God and Him alone, not man, not sickness, or any other thing. If the Lord permits our life to be taken then physical life will come to an end, but that is all that ends. The spirit goes back to God who gave it, and no one can interfere or change that.

Man can, with God's permission, take the physical life but his power ends there. God, on the other hand, can take the physical life and then cast the sinful soul into the lake of fire, or hell, as we know it. If and when that is done there is no one who can change that. Remember the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man died and went to the lake of fire and

wished for water. His request was denied as he was told that no one could come from his location to where Lazarus was and no one could go from where Lazarus was to the lake of fire. His choice had been made and for all eternity he would be where his life and belief had taken him.

Throughout history there have been those who were persecuted for their faith. Many times they were told to deny Jesus and to bow to some idol or man-made doctrine and they would be spared. Otherwise they would be put to death. For some it was a choice to be considered, to deny the Lord and to live, for a time, or to die. Many had made their decision a long time before and needed no time to think about it. They would hold to the Lord and, like the three Hebrews who faced the fire, be delivered. or die, but either way they would not deny Jesus.

There fear was in the right place. They feared God more than they did the fire and the loss of this physical life. Man usually worries about the temporary things that have to do with this life. He goes by what he feels and whatever comforts, or hurts, this body of flesh. No matter what a man does, this life here on earth is for a limited time. The life in either heaven, or hell, is going to last forever.

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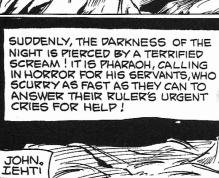
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