

"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." 1Corinthians 15:55-57 KJV



The Cross is the symbol of death's demise at Calvary. We erect crosses on the graves of the fallen to signify death's impotence over the sleeping saint. It is at once a symbol of victory and defeat. The man that shouldered a cross was a dead man walking. All earthly ties were forever severed the instant it touched his shoulder. The cross was his point of departure. It was a symbol of shame and transgression, but our Lord transformed it into an everlasting symbol of victory for the human race. *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."* Romans had a custom in victory of tying the hands of the conquered king, and parading him through his own city behind his own horse while the conquering commander rode on it wearing the king's crown and robe and then, many times, executed him in the city square. It was called making an open shew of his defeat. Jesus killed death on Golgotha's hill for every believer! When He rose from the dead He made an open shew of death's defeat! We can face death unflinchingly for its sting is gone. For every believer death is dead! *"The wages of sin is death,"* but the power of sin was removed by our gracious KING who fulfilled every jot and tittle of the Law. We need only repent, confess, and forsake our sin to be cleansed. Our Lord spent three days and three nights in the grave to stop the mouths of men and devils, forever! There were those who believed a person had to remain dead for three days to be absolutely dead. Jesus arose bodily from the grave in triumph over death and superstition of men. Those that deny His bodily resurrection must also deny His death on the cross. A spear was rammed into his side penetrating His heart from which came forth blood and water. There were hundreds of witnesses to his death, and hundreds witnessed His risen body. The earthquake at the tomb did not release Him. Rather, it displayed the empty tomb for all to see. It is empty to this day. Those who are willingly ignorant will stand naked before His piercing gaze to hear the last Words they will ever hear from God, *"Depart from me. I never knew you!"* Too late, they will realize their foolishness and their eternal doom! Have you introduced anyone to Everlasting Life, lately?

The faithful need fear death no more,
For them it's just an open door,
To brighter realms of Glory bright,
A place that shines with God's own Light! ~CGP

Our KING waits just beyond death's door to welcome every beloved child. Do not fear death, dear child of God, but anticipate your reunion with Father. We neither seek death nor avoid it. It is of no consequence.

"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight.) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2Corinthians 5:6-8 KJV