

## **Mirror, Mirror... Part 3b: "Defiers of Death too"**

*By Cere Muscarella*

"Receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able *to save your soul*. Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, which would be to deceive yourself. *But if anyone is a hearer and a doer, he is like a man who sees himself in the mirror of God's word and never forgets who he is!" James 1.21-24, flipside*

**Working our way through the word to see what kind of images we see! So far...**

**Image of integrity/self-control in facing self-indulgent temptations! Uriah!**

**Image and exercise of Praiser's and Worshipper's! Psalm 149 Hallel-Jah!**

**Today working our way through "Defier's of Death!" *If the word says the sting of death has been removed, we need to fit in to it!***

***We need to be 'renewed' by the Word and 'see' ourselves conformed into the image of whatever it says about us!***

**Defier's of death...** To defy: to brave, challenge, dare, face, confront, oppose, resist with courage, refusing to submit to or cooperate with, to be unaffected by... death!

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Jesus took the keys of hell and death, and handed us the keys of His kingdom!

"Through His death, Jesus broke the grip of the devil who had the power of death, to deliver those *who through the fear of death were in bondage!*" **Heb 2.14,15**

*What we think about death determines what we do with, and in, life! Live in the sunlight or the shadows, freedom or bondage!*

**"Death" can affect us... If we only go around once, there will be nowhere to remember our bucket-lists! If we go another round, we won't grab the gusto, we'll reach for the prize! Phil 3.14**

*Been to high mountains, depth of seas, crossed the plains, oceans... not going to rehearse any of it in heaven!*

"Many things are permissible but I will not be ruled by them; not all things build us up and get us to the point!" **1Cor 6.12, 10.23**

**If we get a Christian perspective of "death" we won't live for experiences but for results and significance!**

**"Death" can affect us... It can affect our sexual fidelity/hungers!** If we only go around once, we may need fresh experiences to know we're alive/desired/*youth-full-filled!* Who is going to commemorate their conquests/notches in heaven?

"What things they count for gain, I count for loss... to know Him!" **Phil 3.7,8**

"I don't live the time I have left in the flesh for lusts sake but the will of God!" **1Pet4.2**

**"Death" can affect us... It affects the way we face end of life...** Fearful/anxious or confident/expectant!

"Fear not for Your Father in heaven knows what you need!" **Matthew 6.25-34**

"He will supply your needs according to His riches in glory!" **Philippians 4.19**

"I know He is able to care for me until the time He comes for me!" **2Tim 1.12**

***Not against retirement/accounts, just dependence on them as if God can't care!***

**"Death" can affect us... It we do not understand that death is merely a doorway through which we (finally) ascend to our Father & life...** We will live distracted lives, pursuing vain experiences and acquisitions... **Holding too loosely to our loved ones in life – and too tightly to them in death...** Not being faithful to the One who called us out of darkness into His light!

**Do we really believe what we say we really believe?**

**Is life-after-death real?** "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not risen... And if He has not risen, then our preaching and your faith is empty, and we are liars *because we testified* that God raised up Christ: who is not raised if the dead don't rise. For if the dead rise not, then Christ is not risen; And if Christ is dead, your faith is vain; and we are still dead in our sins. And those which have died in Christ have all perished. If all we have is a little inspiration from Christ for this life, we are miserable people. *But Christ has risen from the dead and He is the surety of those who have died!* By one man, Adam, death came, but by another man, Jesus, *came the resurrection of the dead!* **1Corinthians 15.13-22**

"When Jesus died, the veil in the temple was torn in two (and the graves were opened and many bodies of the dead saints arose and came out of the graves after His resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many)... **–Matthew, 27.50ff**

"He gave commandments to His apostles, to whom He showed Himself alive after His death by many infallible proofs for forty days before He ascended!" **Acts 1.2,3**

"And after He was seen of the apostles, He was seen by more than five hundred others, most of whom are still alive as I write!" **–Paul, 1Corinthians 15.6,7, 57 A.D.**

"And last of all, He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time." **–Paul, 1Cor 15.8**

**Christ is risen indeed... was seen of many... alive by many infallible proofs...** "Since we were reconciled to God through His death, now we are saved by His life!" **Rom 5.10** "He that hears My words and believes on God, has everlasting life and is passed from death to life!" **John 5.24**

**If we really believe...** Death is merely a portal through which we all enter *real, true, and eternal, life!* Place of fearlessness, peace, excitement! The place where we wait for others! The place where we are rewarded! "For us, to live is opportunity for Christ to use us for the mission, and, to die is our pay and awards day..." **Phil 1.21**

We need to be able to say: "I am prepared for my departure, I have fought a good fight, I have run my race and finished my course (sprint, obstacle, or endurance), I have kept the faith and there is a crown

waiting for me and all who love Him... I am crossing the finish line looking at Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith!" **2Timothy 4.6-8 Hebrews 12.2**

**If L.A.D. is real then we need to deny, to DEFY, the distractions of 'death' and live for significance and results! Can you see yourself as a Denier of Death?**