

**Mirror, Mirror...**  
**Part 3c: "Defiers of Death, Addenda"**

*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**

***Whatever the image we see of believers in the word of God, we fit ourselves into it!***

**Images...** If we see *believers* as followers of Jesus, we follow! If we see *believers* as forgivers, we 'outfit' ourselves for forgiving! If we see *believers* as patient and kind, we trim up to fit into the image! As free, we strive for the fullness of it! ***We 'fit:.' renew, transform ourselves by the word of God!***

**There's a world of difference between "I am not..." and "I am not yet...!" One makes Me god... and the other let's God make me into His image!**

**Mirror, mirror...** Called to be people of integrity/self-control in facing self-indulgent offers! "All (lawful) things are lawful but not all things build us up!" **1Cor 6.12 10.23** Created to *exercise/express* as Praisers' and Worshipper's! **Psalm 149** Freed to be "Defier's of Death" by the true life that *is in, and ahead*, of us! Free from the fear of death... **Heb 2.14,15** Free from the 'rules' of it!

**Under the 'Rules of Death...'** *You will live for experience, acquisitions, accomplishments rather than significance!*

**The significance of your experience is a broadened platform for *focusing others!*** "I've been here, there, up, down and all around... I didn't withhold anything from my heart... and all is vanity... Hear the conclusion, Love God. Do His will. This is the life of men!" **–Solomon, Ecclesiastes**

**The significance of your prosperity is being a *blessing to people!*** Being a 'soul of blessing!' **Pr 11.23-28** Making friends in eternal places! **Lk 16.9** Planting for future harvests! **2Cor 9** Laying up treasure in heaven! **Mt 6.20**

**The significance of your accomplishments is *ministry to affinity groups!*** "Of the stock of Israel, a Benjamite, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, a zealot, but those things that were counted as gains to me I counted as loss *for knowing Christ!*" **Phil 3.1-21**

**Under the 'Rules of Death...'** *You will fear running out of time...*

Vainly back-peddling from the 'doorway'! Life is a vapor! **James 4.14** All flesh and the glory of man is as grass! **1Peter 1.24,25 James 1.10,11** As in Adam *all die*, so in Christ *all are made alive...* As we have borne the image of the earthly we will bear the image of the heavenly – *flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God!* **1Cor 15.22-58**

**Under the 'Rules of Death...'** *You will live w/o an urgency of mission...*

**Unconscious of the number of your days! Uninterested in the number of others!** “For us, to live is opportunity for Christ to use us for the mission...” **Phil 1.21** “Don’t say there is still time; the fields are ready to harvest now...” **John 4.35** “The harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few...” **Mt9.37 Lk 10.2**

**Time Aside... “It is appointed unto men one time to die and then the judgement...” Heb 9.27**  
**Not a predestined moment...** Though God knows the day and time and is there to catch us! (*foreknown*)  
Every biblical resurrection and random act of violence refutes it! **But a finalizing event like Jesus own...**  
*No ‘do-over’s’ What if you’re the last one they hear?*

“God wants all men to come to repentance so what sort of behavior and conversation should that create in us?” **2Peter 3.9-11**

**Our behavior/conversation?** You, beloved, *build up* your most holy faith *by praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping yourselves in God’s love* as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you into eternal life. *Make a difference by lovingly helping* people who doubt. *Grab hold of the unsaved;* alarmed that they are heading toward death and hell, *love them without compromising with their sin!* Now, to Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless in the presence of His glory with joy, *to the only wise God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,* through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and *forevermore!* Amen. **Jude 20-25**

**The rule of death determines if our vision is for our own interests, or, developing for the interests of others!**

**One makes ‘Me’ god... and the other let’s God make me like Him!**

**Can you see yourself as a “Defier of Death?”**