

“Born that Man No More May Fear to Die”

Hebrews 2:14-15
December 17, 2023

I. Christ has defeated one of our greatest foes. (Heb. 2:14)

A. Christ has defeated Satan, who had power over death.

B. In what sense did Satan have power over death?

1. It was never absolute. Only God has that.

Deuteronomy 32:39 - “ ‘See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.’ ”

Revelation 1:18 - ...I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

2. It might be connected to the temptation of Adam and Eve or to his deceptions of men and women today...

3. It's more likely connected to his role as our *Accuser* in heaven. (see Job 1-2; Zech 8:1, Rev. 12:10).

a. Perhaps Satan's accusations kept people in the realm of the dead (Sheol).

b. If nothing changed, his accusations would have called for everyone's eternal damnation at the final judgement.

C. Through Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation, our Accuser has been cast out of heaven's courts.

Revelation 12:10 - And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

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II. Christ has defeated one our greatest fears. (Heb. 2:15)

A. Since Christ died for our sins and since our Accuser has been defeated, believers need not fear the reality of death.

1. Christians should be free from fearing the *results* of death.

a. What awaits us at death is immediate entrance into Christ's presence.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 - ⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight — ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

- b. For believers, to die is gain! (Php. 1:21)
- 2. Christians should be free from fearing the *permanence* of death.
 - a. For believers, death is not the final chapter.
 - b. Death is entry into a glorious and blessed *interlude* between this life and our future bodily resurrection.
- B. Not every Christian enjoys this freedom from the fear of death.
 - 1. This can be due to a failure to understand the sin-cleansing power of the blood of Christ.
 - 2. This can be due to an extended season of unrepentant sin which causes a believer to doubt their own sincerity.
 - 3. Believers in either position should not despair or delay; rather, they should labor to strengthen their faith and repentance.
 - 4. We owe it to our Lord Jesus to do all that we can to bask in the courage over death He has purchased for us by His own death.