

I. Introduction: The worst enemy of humanity is death. Isa. 40:6-8

II. The calamities of life test your faith. v. 1-6

- A. Being loved by the Lord does not spare you from trouble in this life. v. 1-3,5
 - 1. Jesus loved Lazarus, Martha and Mary. v. 3, 5, 35-36
 - 2. Sickness and premature death are not necessarily signs of divine displeasure. Christians suffer like everyone else. Gal. 4:13 Phil. 2:26 II Tim. 4:20
- B. The Lord does not always respond to your pleas for help in the time or the manner you desire. v. 4-6 Are you perplexed by God's inaction? 2 Co. 12:7ff

III. God has a good purpose in your trials. v. 4, 7-16 Rom. 8:28

- A. The glory of God is the supreme good. v. 4, 40 9:3 1:14 2:11
 - 1. This work proves Jesus' claim to be the Son of God, equal to the Father. 10:30
 - 2. Jesus signifies the nature of His life-giving (and death-defeating) work.
- B. The faith of many is built up. v. 15, 21-24,27,39 19,45
 - 1. The disciples still have much to learn. v. 15
 - 2. Martha's faith is still deficient. v. 21-24, 27, 39
- C. Jesus is in complete submission to the Father's purposes. v. 5-16 12:23, 28
The supreme act by which He glorifies the Father is the cross. 10:11 Mt. 26:39
- D. Are you in submission to God's purposes? Ro. 8:28 Luke 22:42 Js. 1:2ff

IV. Jesus offers words of comfort to those who face death. v. 17-27

- A. Jesus personally is your hope. v. 17-25a
 - 1. Martha underestimates the Lord. v. 23-24
 - 2. Jesus embodies the hope of resurrection and life.
 - 3. Another of the great "I AM" statements of Jesus. 6:35 8:12 10:9 14:6 15:5
- B. Jesus is the resurrection. v. 25a
 - 1. We who were spiritually dead have been given life in Christ. 5:25 Eph. 2:1-6
 - 2. Physical death is a sleep from which we will be awakened. v. 11-14 5:29-30
I Co 15:6,18,20,35ff,51ff I Thess. 4:13-18 II Co. 5:6-8 Re. 7:15-17 20:4
- C. Jesus is the life. v. 25b 1:4
 - 1. His people will never taste spiritual death. v. 26a Ro. 8:10
 - 2. Jesus has removed the sting of death. I Co. 15:55-57
 - 3. Believers presently experience the resurrection life Jesus came to give. 5:25 6:47
Ro. 6:3-9,11
 - 4. When He returns we will experience the fulness of the life He brings. 5:29-30
6:39-40 12:48
- D. It is only through faith that we can know the life Jesus brings. v. 25c-26 3:15-16

V. Conclusion: Do you believe this? v.26