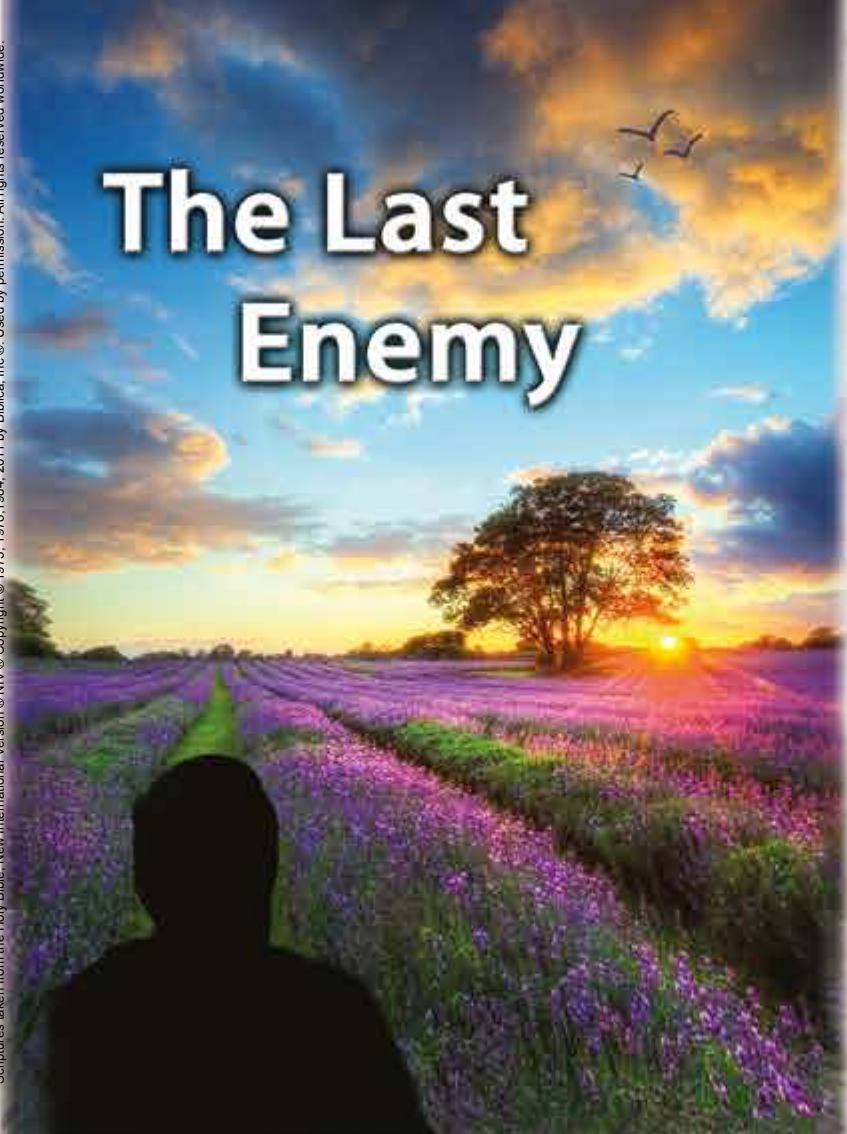


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The Last Enemy



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To:

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THE LAST ENEMY

For some it may come very suddenly. For others it might be the result of a long, lingering illness. But one thing is for sure... it will come to us all, sooner or later. There will be no escape.

Yet death need not hold the terror which can so easily lurk on the horizon of our daily living.



The 'Last Enemy' can be for us a defeated enemy...

...so long as we're willing to face the truth...

A Universal Enemy



Amidst all the beauty and wonders of our world, death comes as a dreadful intruder, with the power to rob us of so much.

Yet this was never God's original intention. Death came to this world as a direct result of man deciding to go his own way... and ever since we've rejected God's right to order our lives, preferring instead to 'do our own thing'...

For the wages of sin is death...
Romans 6:23

Death is no respecter of nationality, culture or social standing. And no matter how hard we try to delay the aging process, not one of us will escape...

...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people...

Romans 5:12

Yet there is a wonderful answer to this dreadful prospect...

A Fearful Enemy

Many of us today would like to believe that at worst, the other side of death will hold only oblivion. Yet God tells us that death is not simply a 'dead end', but rather a 'fork in the road'.

Each one of us will be called to give an account of our lives...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Yet to die, simply assuming that God will consider us 'good enough', will prove the ultimate in false hope. In His sight...

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Isaiah 64:6

The wonderful thing is, God gives us the opportunity now to have our eternal future settled, once and for all...

...wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life...

Matthew 7:13-14



A Beaten Enemy

In what has been described as the greatest act of love the world has ever known, God sent His Son...

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

1 Timothy 1:15

He took the punishment we deserve and was raised to life again that first Easter Day. When we turn away from all we know to be wrong and ask Him into our lives to become our Saviour and Lord, our future is secured...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

We're given a completely new start in life...

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you...

1 Peter 1:3-4



A Separating Enemy

It's natural to dread the separation from loved ones that death will bring. But the Lord Jesus promises that for all who come to know and trust Him this will be for a temporary period only...

...my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:40

In becoming a true Christian we're 'put right' with God.

But although the 'price' has been

paid on the Cross of Calvary, there is nevertheless a cost facing those of us who would become His true followers... the 'cost' of commitment.

We demonstrate this by placing our daily living under the direction and management of the Lord Jesus Christ who says...

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.

John 14:21

A Challenging Enemy

We'll try not to think about it and it's probably the last thing we'll want to talk about. But no matter what, death is our greatest enemy to which the world has no answer. Only Christ Jesus promises everlasting security...

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

John 11:25,26

Of course, this is not thrust upon us automatically. We're called to seek Him with sincerity...

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

So NOW is always the right time to 'get right' with God...

...how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

Hebrews 2:3

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

