

DR. DAVID SHEPPARD

APRIL 12, 2009

THE LAST ENEMY

Introduction: Arnold Toynbee, the British historian, once wrote “death is man’s greatest enemy”. News reporter, Ray Bradbury, speaking on the CBS Walter Cronkite show said, “The quest of religion, politics and science is to elude death.”

I Corinthians 15:26

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

I. MONUMENTS TO DEATH

1. Great PYRAMID of EYPT - 2560 B.C.
2. TAJ MAHAL of Agra, India
3. LENIN’S Tomb in Red Square, Moscow
4. WESTMINSTER Abbey, London
5. ST. PETER’S Basilica, Rome
6. Every CEMETERY - cities of the DEAD

II. MEMORIALS TO MORTALITY

1. RICH the FAMOUS, the POWERFUL
2. PAUPERS
3. UNKNOWN
4. COMMON

Ecclesiastes 9:2 - *“All share a common destiny - the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.”*

III. MESSAGES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Frank Sinatra’s tombstone - *“The best is yet to come”*

Ben Franklin’s tombstone - *“The body of Ben Franklin, printer (like the cover of an old book, its contents worn out, and stripped of its lettering and gilding) lie here, food for worms, yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will as he believed, appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by its author.”*

IV. MIRACLE TOMB

Matthew 28:6 - *“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said...”*

Luke 24:3 - *“...but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”*

Luke 24:5 - *“...why do you look for the living among the dead?”*

1. Monument to RESURRECTION
2. Memorial to IMMORTALITY
3. Message of TRIUMPH

Conclusion: Winston Churchill’s funeral service concluded with two trumpets -

First played TAPS

Second played REVEILLE