5-26-1956

Famous Last Words

Wyatt Sawyer

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A. MEN OF VIOLENCE. (Quotations from 3,000 Illustrations by W. B. Knight. Pp.230-232.)

1. NAPOLEON BONAPARTE: "I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ." France.

2. CHARLES IX of FRANCE. (Massacred over 115,000 French Huguenots because their religious faith differed from his.)

"Awake or asleep, I see the mangled forms of the Huguenots passing before me. They drip with blood. They point at their open wounds. Oh! that I had spared at least the little infants at the breast! What blood! I know not where I am. How will all this end? What shall I do? I am lost forever! I know it. Oh, I have done wrong. God pardon me!"

3. J. WILKES BOOTH. (The man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Two words: "Useless! Useless!"

Characterized by: Despair, gloom, fear and horror.)

B. MEN WHO DOUBTED GOD'S EXISTENCE.

1. THOMAS PAINE. (Author of the Age of Reason; reflection on God and the Bible.)

"I would give worlds if I had them, that "The Age of Reason" had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? But there is no God! But what if there should be, what will become of me hereafter? Stay with me, for God's sake! Send even a child to stay with me, for it is Hell to be alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one." (American infidel and author.)

2. FRANCIS VOLTAIRE, French infidel. Sought to exterminate all Christianity.

One time said: "In twenty years, Christianity will be no more. My single hand shall destroy the edifice it took twelve apostles to rear." (Church)

At death he said: "I am abandoned by God and men! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life. Then I shall go to Hell; and you will go with me. O Christ! O Jesus Christ!"" (spoken to his doctor)

3. DAVID STRAUSS, German rationalist. Spent his life trying to reason God out of existence. "My philosophy leaves me utterly forlorn. I feel like one caught in the merciless jaws of an automatic machine, not knowing at what time one of its great hammers may crush me!" (Weight was his conscience."

C. MEN OF GOD WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED TO THE DEATH.

1. JOHN HUSS, Bohemian reformer who was burned at the stake. "What I taught with my life, I seal with my blood." Had vigorously attacked Roman Catholic Church because of its gross sin and evil.

2. JOHN CALVIN, French leader of Reformation movement. "Thou, Lord, bruisest me, but I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy hand."
"The best of all is, God is with us."

4. LUDVIG VON BEETHOVEN, deaf Prussian composer.  
"I shall hear in Heaven."

5. BEN HILL, Georgia's silver-tongued orator of a few years back.  
"Almost home."

6. ROBERT BURNS, Scottish poet.  
"I have but a moment to speak to you my dear. Be a good man; be virtuous; be religious. Nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to be here." (Death characterized by his peace of mind.)

7. JOHN BUNYAN, Author of Pilgrim's Progress.  
"Weep not for me, but for yourselves. I go to the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who no doubt will receive me, though a sinner, through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, where I hope we shall ere long meet to sing the new song and remain happy forever; world without end. Amen!"

8. GEORGE WHITEFIELD, English evangelist.  
"Lord Jesus, I am weary IN thy work, but not OF thy work. If I have not yet finished my course let me go and speak for Thee once more in the fields, seal the truth, and come home to die."  
(Characteristic of: Peace, comfort, hope and joyful expectation.)

Life + death →

D. MEN OF THE BIBLE WHO TRUSTED IN GOD.  
Heritage of Strength + Power!

1. STEPHEN. Acts 7:56. Early Christian who was persecuted for righteousness' sake.
   a. "Behold I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." (Do dying men get a glimpse of Heaven before death?) V. 56.
   b. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." V. 59
   c. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." V. 60
   d. Characterized by: Faith, trust, hope and immediate expectation.

2. THE APOSTLE PAUL. II. Tim. 4:6-8:
   a. "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."  
   b. "I have fought a good fight."  
   (1) Everyone struggles through life, but few can say "goodness" is the result of my having lived. "The world is better now."  
   (2) Paul took a lot of mistreatment and gave a lot of goodness to all.
   c. "I have finished my course." An old man who had preached to the whole world. Col. 1:23.
   (1) How many men finish all the things they hope to do in life?  
   (a) Led all you can to Christ? Exhausted contacts?  
   (b) Lived a life above outward reproach. Bible best read through a life.  
   d. "I have kept the faith."  
   (1) Paul experienced every trial that today breaks the faith of men.  
   (2) He remained strong because of his hope for the future.
There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness—eternal life.

1. Crown of olive-leaves the prize for champion runner in Roman empire.
2. Possessor of it got key to the city of Rome, just ask and all given him.
3. Received all manner of honors and gifts, privleges. Paul got the key to Heaven.

Paul could withstand untold suffering in view new and better life to come. Rom. 8:18.


If not a Christian, what have you to look forward to? Eternal less of soul? B.Roll.

If an erring child of God, can expect only punishment for sin. R-P.

My last words: "Thank you, Lord Jesus."

What would you say?

Let's sing!