

The Last Word

How to Write Your Own Obituary

Pastor Carl Toti - November 11-12, 2017

David's first words in the Bible.

1 Samuel 17:26 (NLT) David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

David's last words in Scripture.

1 Kings 2:1-4 (NLT) As the time of King David's death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon: 2 "I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. Take courage and be a man. 3 Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go. 4 If you do this, then the LORD will keep the promise he made to me. He told me, 'If your descendants live as they should and follow me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.'

1. _____ UNCOMPROMISINGLY

22 Samuel 15:22 (NKJV) So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

To pay the price of obedience is to escape the cost of disobedience.

— John Blanchard

Obedience is the road to freedom.

— C. S. Lewis

2. _____ YOUR ENEMIES.

1 Kings 2:5-6 (NLT) "And there is something else. You know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me when he murdered my two army commanders, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He pretended that it was an act of war, but it was done in a time of peace, staining his belt and sandals with innocent blood. 6 Do with him what you think best, but don't let him grow old and go to his grave in peace.

Three Types of Enemies

(1) N _____ Enemies

The term "natural enemies" is used for organisms that kill or injure other animals. They are predators and parasites.

2 Peter 2:12 (NKJV) But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

Romans 13:4 (NKJV) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

(2) N _____ Enemies

Who try to sabotage and undermine you in life.

2 Timothy 4:14-15 (NKJV) Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

Exodus 23:4 (NKJV) "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

Matthew 5:43-44 (NKJV) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Everyone needs a warm personal enemy or two to keep him free from rust in the movable parts of his mind.

— Gene Fowler

I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good characters, and my enemies for their intellects. A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.

— Oscar Wilde

(3) N _____ Enemies

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

John 17:14-15 (NKJV) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

"Prayer is the great engine to overthrow and rout my spiritual enemies, the great means to procure the graces of which I stand in hourly need." — Charles H. Spurgeon

Revelation 22:20-21 (NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.