

LAST WORDS OF FIVE GREAT MEN

INTRO: The last conscious words of those we love will always remain with us. For the next few minutes, we will look at the last recorded words of five great Bible personalities – words that should help us make right decisions, and find hope to face whatever trials and problems we may someday face.

I. THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS BEFORE HIS ASCENSION TO HEAVEN:

Acts 1:8, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- A. This was said to the men who been with Him and learned from Him throughout His earthly ministry.
- B. It contained an important promise: the guidance of H.S.
- C. It implied a duty: “You **shall** be witnesses to Me.”

II. THE LAST WORDS OF JAMES.

James 5:20, “He who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

- A. Whatever our occupation or “place” in society, throughout a lifetime, each of us has opportunity to influence others.
- B. Many souls will be lost in spite of our best efforts, but some souls may be lost because we failed to try.

III. THE LAST RECORDED WORDS OF SIMON PETER.

2 Peter 3:18, Grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

- A. Peter knew his death was imminent.

2 Peter 1:12-15, For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put

off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

B. By the grace of God, we can increase our knowledge of God & His will by studying the writings of Peter & the other inspired writers of the New Testament Scriptures. And as our knowledge of God increases, so also will our praise to Him.

IV. THE LAST WORDS OF JUDE.

Jude 20-25, But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

A. Build yourselves up in faith. Rom. 10:17

B. Praying in the H.S.

C. Keep loving God.

D. Look to Christ for mercy & everlasting life.

E. Treat some sinners with patient compassion.

F. Others may need to be treated roughly to save them...

V. THE WORDS OF JOHN.

Rev 22:17-21, The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, & from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

- A. One last invitation to benefit from the sacrifice of Jesus.
- B. One last warning about tampering with the word of God.
- C. One last promise of Christ's coming.
 - 1. Not every promised "coming" refers to the 2nd coming. Rev 2:5.
 - 2. But there will be a literal, personal 2nd coming.
Acts 1:11

Rev 1:7-8, Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. I am the Alpha & the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- 3. Note: "quickly" does not necessarily mean "soon"

CONCLUSION: May these "famous last words" help us to live & die in Christ. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Rev. 14:13).

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