

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 38 - REMOVING THE FEAR OF DEATH: Romans 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me”

Death is the single common denominator of all men and women. A lot of voices, books and articles today tell us how to live. But there is only one book that tells us how to die. And there is no one verse in that Book of books which is more pertinent to the subject than our verse this week. Tradition tells us that King David wrote these words about the “valley of the shadow” while sitting in the Judean wilderness between Jerusalem and Jericho. It is a long valley about four and a half miles in length, and its canyons run as much as fifteen hundred feet in depth. The sun casts a shadow over the canyon on the sheep trails which snake their way up, down, and through the rugged terrain. This one verse reveals three important facts about the appointment that awaits every one of us.

FACT 1: DEATH IS A SURE THING

Death is sure. It is certain. We deal with death in many ways. Some attempt to flee it. Some go to the extremes of freezing their bodies in the hope that future medical breakthroughs can bring them back to life at some future date. Some people simply reject the idea, assuming it will somehow go away. Others fear it - and they live paralysed lives with no hope or security in Christ. Then there are those like David, who face death. Note carefully David’s words: “I **walk** through the valley.” He didn’t run towards death. He didn’t crawl, as though he wanted to postpone it as long as possible. He was not dragged towards it. He simply walked. He knew death could not be avoided; it is a sure thing.

FACT 2: DEATH IS A SOJOURN

David indicated that he walked **through** the valley. It was not his final destination, it was a sojourn, a temporary journey. He knew this road was not a dead end with no way out. We do not walk in the valley; we do not stay there; we walk **through** the valley. Death is a sure thing, but it is also only a sojourn. It is not our final destination.

FACT 3: DEATH IS A SHADOW

No believer in Christ ever walks through the valley of death, only the valley of the **shadow** of death. A shadow might horrify you, but it cannot harm you. And the only way you can have a shadow is to have a great light shining. While death is a sure thing, it is only a temporary journey through a shadow. It is, in a sense, stepping into the light. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Is it any wonder David went on in this verse to exclaim, “I will fear no evil”? David could fear no evil because he knew the Lord was with him. We too need fear no evil. Why? Because the Lord is with us, and He has conquered death, hell, and the grave. The apostle John got a glimpse of Jesus’ glory. Upon seeing the vision of the exalted Christ, John said, “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and hades.” (Revelation 1:17-18). Yes, **“though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.”**

As you memorise this verse, meditate on the fact that, through His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus made a way when there was no way for us. We need not fear death. We only walk through the valley of the shadow of death And Jesus is with us!