

Doctrinal Studies: That Which Becomes Obsolete

What does obsolete mean? No longer in use, discarded, out-of-date, outmoded.

1. The reality of death is the test of the believer's spiritual condition, and true scale of values. We all face the time when we will leave this life; and we must know that God's timing for this event *is perfect*.
2. In the face of death, there are many things people value that are absolutely useless, such as money, success or lack of it. When you are dying, your wealth, success, promotion or social life, or pleasures are no good. These things become immediately obsolete, and useless.
3. The experience of dying is a test of our living values; the potential of dying becomes a test of our scale of values.
4. If God and His Word are not first in the scale of values, dying is a nightmare.
5. The dying caused by Domitian and the other ten persecutors of Christians became a test for the scales of values for thousands of believers.
6. Believers living in the cosmic system, facing persecution and death, often renounced the Lord Jesus Christ; they didn't lose their salvation, but they lost their fellowship with our Lord. Many after the persecutions tried to come back into the fellowship, and many were not allowed back in. In this way the "flakes" were eliminated.
7. Those who advanced and were true to our Lord suffered and died, fulfilling what Tertullian said: *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. We have filled your palaces, your senate, your cities with Christians; all that is left are your empty temples."*
8. The cosmic believers, however, feared death because they actually had a fear of life. If you are afraid of death, you will be afraid of life.
9. If there is nothing worth living for, then there is nothing worth dying for. Mature believers, with a divine perspective of life and death, fully understand this issue.
10. It took the persecution of the Church to give the proper perspective for missionary function; in fact, this 300-year period of persecutions helped the Church to preserve the Roman Empire.