

# THE BULWARK

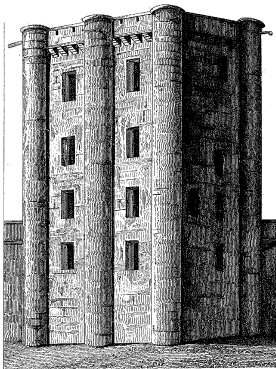
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,  
consider her palaces, that  
you may tell it to the  
generation following”*  
Psalms 48:13

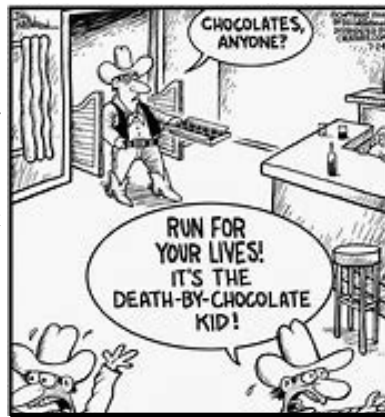
## WHAT A WAY TO GO: DEATH BY CHOCOLATE (?)

*“And inasmuch as it appointed for men to die once, and after this comes judgment.”* (Hebrews 9:27) While it is more than apparent that there are many things that separate people one from another. However there is one thing that is universal; we all face the same appointment as noted above. Most don’t want to entertain thoughts about their eventual demise, nevertheless it is a fact of life. When we do think about it, we want our passing to be free from pain, suffering and fear as much as possible.

Most likely Vincent Smith II did not envision himself dying in the way in which he did. In July of 2009, Smith experienced “death by chocolate”, to be sure there are some who with tongue in cheek echo “death by chocolate, what a way to go”. They are referring no doubt to the decadent dessert, while Smith’s death was far from desirous. What happened is that he was working in a chocolate factory in Camden, New Jersey, where he fell into a boiling vat of chocolate, eight foot deep. His co-workers couldn’t get him out in time; he drowned. One could be pretty confident that he was not thinking “what a way to go”.

In the later part of 1Corinthians, chapter fifteen, Paul examines how one can look at death from the stand point of “what a way to go” that centers itself on victory.

*“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (vs 55-57)



For the most part we do not know when we will come face to face with our mortality, or the circumstances therein. Nor would we want to. Notice a couple of thoughts from Solomon. *“If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?”* (Ecclesiastes 8:7) *“Moreover, man does not know his time; like fish caught in a treacherous net, and birds trapped in a snare, so are the sons of men ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.”* (Ecclesiastes 9:12) In chapter twelve of Ecclesiastes Solomon paints a verbal picture dealing with the aging process and end of life concerns. The pending transition from the finite to the infinite. He concludes his thoughts with a sobering reminder that life is about preparing for that moment when each one of us will come face to face with our Creator and give an account for that which we have done with the life given to us (see verses thirteen and fourteen)

The psalmist, David laid out a truly positive “way to go” as seen in the 116th psalm. *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.”* (wbe)