

The University Heights Messenger

September 26, 2010

No More Tears

Though I have been acquainted with death my entire life, an unavoidable part of growing up in the home of a gospel preacher, I can honestly say that the news of my grandfather's passing caused me more pain than any other event in my life to this point. My grandfather and I were best friends. When dad called me Sunday evening to give me the news my life was altered never to go back to exactly as it had been before. How could it when one of the most important people in my life was suddenly gone?

Tears flowed freely in my family for many months afterward. Looking back I realize that my grandmother never really recovered. Having been married more than fifty years, I suppose that it's not a surprise. Even today, several years after the event, holidays are not quite the same without grandpa's happy, boisterous self sitting there at the table making everyone laugh. Even today holiday's can cause a few tears. Even *now* they fill my eyes.

Nearly everyone who takes the time to read this article will have a similiar story to tell. We've all lost people to death who were incredibly important to us. If you haven't yet count yourself fortunate. Be prepared, though. It *will* happen.

Our Lord, who *experienced* death, knows the pain that it brings to the loved one's of the deceased. He experienced that, too. **"When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?'** They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' **Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See, how he loved him!'"** (John 11:33-35)

When you stand in a funeral home and see the family of the deceased standing around the casket, their love is quite literally falling from their eyes. Though knowing that Lazarus was but moments from raising from the dead, our Lord wept at the loss of His friend and for the hurt of those who loved him.

Knowing the physical loss of a loved one would cause tremendous pain, our Lord would not have His people despair and drown in hopelessness over the loss of faithful Christian family members. He would have them remain confident and rejoicing over their souls, even as they mourn the loss of their physical presence. It is for this reason that He moved Paul to write the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. **"For this we declare to you by a word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."** And how encouraging they are!

I am always moved by David's words after the loss of his child in 2 Samuel 12:22-23. **"While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'** But now he is dead. **Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."** David clearly believed in the immortality of the soul. In the New Testament it is much clearer.

David would see that child again in heaven.

Of all the descriptions of heaven, none has comforted Christians throughout the ages more than the words of Revelation 21:4. **“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”** Though heaven is described as a city of pure gold with walls of jasper, precious jewels covering those walls, and gates of pearl, I must admit to you that what I find most attractive about it, besides it being the dwelling of God Himself, is that it will be a place where we will no longer shed tears over death and sickness. We will never visit another hospital. We will never see the anguish in the eyes of family members when the doctor delivers the sad report. We will never file slowly past the casket to shake hands, give hugs, and offer whatever words we can think of to a grieving husband, wife, mother, or father, as the one they hold so dear lies empty before them. We will never have to stand in a cemetery to hear a preacher say, “Now our journey with ? has reached its end.” Those are the former things and they will have passed.

Instead, we will all stand around that glorious throne together, faithful loved ones of years past right there at our side, and sing throughout eternity to the One who has made this wonderful reunion possible. Oh, how I long for heaven! What about you?

AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Janet Brundige continues to recover from her shoulder surgery. **Richard** has been fighting back problems as well as illness. Let's see what we can do to make things easier for both of them.

John Bennett, an acquaintance of Jim Edwards, has been transferred to Cardinal Hill after his serious automobile accident.

Sara Phillips had surgery on her vocal cords this past Friday. We should have an update on that today.

Our members: **Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin**

Others: **Robert and Sarah Brundige, Warfel family, Gail Hunter, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Ruel Baker, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt, the Shamas family.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The congregational meeting is today at 5. Please make your plans to attend.

The singing is scheduled for next Friday.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sunday: Job 20-21, Ps 52, Luke 16
Monday: Job 22-23, Ps 53, Luke 17
Tuesday: Job 24-26, Ps 54, Luke 18
Wednesday: Job 27-28, Ps 55, Luke 19
Thursday: Job 29-30, Ps 56, Luke 20
Friday: Job 31-32, Ps 57, Luke 21
Saturday: Job 33-34, Ps 58, Luke 22

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. The Merging Image 5
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel”
(Romans 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 4:5)

Sunday PM. A Night With Satan and Peter
(Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 5:8)