

Isaiah 40:18-31(Read)

...Obituary.....

...Prayer.....

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Today, I am reminded of the first funeral I ever conducted. It was a funeral of a woman 72 years of age, but who had never made any profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a pity to go through life like that, neglecting every opportunity of salvation and ignoring all of God's offers of love and grace.

But what a contrast do we find here today. Here is a woman LINDA Fenzl who gave her life to Jesus and who has loved and served Him for many many years. And you know, I really believe that all the bells of heaven rang out last week when God called Linda home and she entered that blessed city of joy which we call heaven.

I thank God, today, for such people as LINDA. She lived amongst us for awhile. She blessed our hearts. And through these many ^{MONTHS} ~~years~~ she has testified to God's love and power and direction. And now she has gone home to be with the Lord.

- In Psalms 116:15 we have a wonderful verse of scripture. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint." And truly LINDA was one of God's precious saints.

A person trying to explain the success of christianity wrote: "If any righteous man among the Christians passes from the world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God and they escort his ~~body~~ body with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another."

And of course, if you know the Lord Jesus as your saviour you can say AMEN to that. For we know that is the spirit of this memorial service. YES, there are tears, there are saddened emotions, for we are human and we will miss LINDA. But there is also joy..a joy which is sustained by the thought: ~~the~~ "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of LINDA, one of God's saints."

The Bible says many wonderful things about the death of a christian. We hear these words of Jesus: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

You know, not all those who die are going to be happy. But only those who die "in the Lord", as LINDA did, will come to know the supreme joy that only God can give.

In John chapter 14 Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many dwelling places if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that were I am, there you may be also."

Then we find these precious words in the book of Revelation chapter 21: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain."

These past couple of months LINDA has suffered a great deal. But then the time came. And Jesus called her home and gave to LINDA his beloved rest.

I believe it is wonderful to have this memorial service. A service without the body in view. WHY? Because LINDA is not here. She has left her old worn-out body and she has gone to be with the Lord. Absent from the body, present with the Lord." *And we have been changed - I Cor 15*

Now, In memory of LINDA I have shared with you some of the great promises of God concerning our eternal destiny. We will all die someday. And the question is: Where will we spend eternity.

Some folks would have you believe that when you die that is it. There is no more. It is all over. Others would tell you that regardless of what you do with Jesus Christ, we are all God's children and thus we will all be in heaven.

But, the christian faith teaches that ^{a person} ~~man~~ has a decision to make. And only those who, like LINDA who receive Jesus Christ as their saviour will be called a child of God and will spend eternity with God in heaven. But as many as receive him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name....Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

Do you know Jesus today? Have you personal accepted him as your Saviour ...If you haven't, I hope you will. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of LINDA one of God's saints."

~~I would like to close by sharing the words of a hymn that was very precious to~~ me.