

THE GLORIOUS DAWN

OPENING SCRIPTURE

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, ~~the Holy One of Israel~~, your Saviour"...(Isa. 43:1-3)

INVOCATION:

Our Father, we know that you are the God of the living. And we know that in your sight those whome we call dead are still alive; we offer thanks to thee for giving us the victory, through Jesus who lives, though He was dead; even Jesus Christ our Lord.....Amen.

MEDITATION

Someone has said at the time of bereavement, "I feel that because I believe in God, I have all that I need."

And that is true
all over sure
Faith in God is the most comforting fact in the world. Human explanations and words are often empty and frustrating at such an hour. *But* there is Christ who is everlasting to everlasting, the Creator of life, the planner of death, the provider of eternal life.

However, at no time does one feel more helpless than at death. Hence the prophet Amos urges us to "seek Him that maketh the seven stars and turns the shadow of death into the morning light"....(Amos 5:8)

Dear friends, God alone can and will comfort you. Now, why is this so?

(1) First, because He turns the shadows of suffering into the glorious morning of rest.

Have you ever been real sick in the darkness of the night....you could get no comfort, find no relief? Things always look worse and more frightening at night. Then, the gentle rays of morning brightened the sky, medical assistance was available, and you were able to then rest in peace...What a glorious dawn.....

Amy has suffered long these past ^{long years} few months. He/she has gone through the weariness of the flesh. And how wonderful it is that God giveth his beloved sleep. God has brought, through death, a rest from the limitations of this life. The Apostle Paul writes in Hebrews chapter 4: "So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God." In Revelation chapter 14 John writes: "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labors."

And in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 we read: "to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord."

Comfort comes when we realize the past sufferings of Amy have been turned into the glorious morning of rest....

(2) GOD CAN COMFORT YOU ALSO, BECAUSE HE TURNS THE SHADOW OF DEATH INTO THE GLORIOUS MORNING OF LIFE.

In O.T. times, people were never certain about life after death. ~~However~~ ^{But}, the glorious news of the Gospel is that death is not the end of life. We live on the right side of the ~~historical~~ ^{Tremendous} testimony that Jesus Christ, who though He died, yet lived to be seen by hundreds of people on many different occasions. "Because I live, " Jessus said, "You shall live also." Jesus Christ has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to life. "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

You know, dear friends, there is a truth in our burriel customs that I believe we often forget. In ancient times, mourners buried loved ones facing the WEST, towards the sunset, the darkness, the night.

But after Christ arose from the dead, Christians buried their loved ones facing the EAST, towards the sunrise, the light, the dawn of a new day....

Amy had been ~~baptized in the~~ ^{christian for many years} Member of 1st Baptist ~~He was a Christian.~~ And the shadow of death has been turned into the glorious morning of life.....

(3) GOD COMFORTS YOU ALSO BY TURNING THE SHADOWS OF DISAPPOINTED INTO THE MORNING OF REWARDS.

This earthly life is filled with disappointments, frustrations, unfulfilled dreams. Death is the gateway to a world of rewards, more valuable than all the fame, money, recognition, joy and friendship which this world can ever give. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"(I Corinthians 2:9)

The prayer of one believer was, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

God alone can turn the shadows of your night into sunrise tomorrow.

Am

Now, like a dew-drop shrined
Within a crystal stone,
You are safe in heaven, my dove.
Safe with the source of love,
The everlasting one.
And when the hour arrives
From flesh that sets me free
Thy spirit may await,
The first at heaven's gate,
To meet and welcome me.

Hymn # 520

Wonderful Peace

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial like strains it unceasingly falls,
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

CHORUS:

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit for ever, I pray;
In fathomless billows of love.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul,
So secure that no power can ^{take} mine it away
While the years of eternity roll.

And ^I think when I rise to that city of peace,
Where the author of peace I shall see,
That one strain of the song which ^{through} ~~the~~ ransomed will sing
In that heavenly kingdom shall be.

Benediction: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

In memory we say - Thank you God

John ~~Emmons~~
Na Than Emmons