

Title: The Glorious Dawn

Scripture:.....Matthew 11:28-30

Invocation

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

How true that is. I believe that faith in God is the most comforting fact in the world. ^{For} Human explanations are often empty, words from our lips fibble come, ~~But~~ there is Christ Jesus who is ever lasting to everlasting. ~~And~~ it was the prophet Amos who urges us at times of sorrow "to seek Him that maketh the seven stars and turns the shadow of death into the morning of light."

~~Dear friends, God alone can comfort you.~~

(1) He can comfort you because he turns the shadows of suffering into the glorious morning of rest.

Have you ever been real sick in the darkness of night? And you could find no relief? Things always look worse and more frightening at night. Then, the gentle rays of morning brightened the sky, and you were able to get help and find rest...And you thank God for

the glorious dawn.

* Mary has suffered long these past few years.

^{she} ~~He~~ 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} ~~from~~ the limitations of this life. The Apostle John writes , "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labors."

And ^I believe that God's comfort comes when we realize the past sufferings of Mary has been turned into the glorious morning of rest.

(2) God can bring comfort to you because he will turn the shadow of death into the glorious morning of life.

You know, in the C.T. times, people were never certain about life after death. But, the glorious news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that death is not the end of life. For it was Jesus who taught "because I live, you shall live also!" He said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, through he were dead, yet shall he live."

You know, dear friends, there is a truth in our burial customs that I believe we often forget. In ancient times, people would bury their loved ones facing WEST, towards the sunset, the darkness of night.

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

You see, death is not the end. Because of Christ it is ~~but~~ the beginning. Death is the gateway into the presence of the living God.

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

Dear friends, God can turn the shadow of death into the glorious morning of life.