

(10)  
PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD

Today, I am reminded of the first funeral I ever conducted. It was a funeral of a woman 72 years old, 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, oh, dear friends, what a contrast do we find here today. Here is a <sup>Yonglaku</sup> ~~man~~, \_\_\_\_\_, who gave his life to Jesus and who has loved and served Him for many, many years. Oh, surely all the bells of heaven rang out when God called \_\_\_\_\_ home. And he entered that blessed city of joy which we call heaven.

I thank God for people like Marie. <sup>she</sup> ~~He~~ lived amongst us for awhile. <sup>she</sup> ~~He~~ blessed our hearts. And through these many years <sup>she</sup> ~~he~~ has testified to the steadfastness of God's love and power and direction. And now <sup>she</sup> ~~he~~ has gone home to be with the Lord.....Praise God!....

In Psalms 116:verse 15, we read a wonderful verse of Scripture."Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint." And truly Marie 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 with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another."

And of course, we who know the Lord Jesus 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 Marie. But there is also joy. A joy which is sustained by the thought: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of Marie, one of God's saints."

The word "Precious" means "of great value, very dear, highly esteemed." And to say that death is very dear, of of great value, or highly esteemed, seems unthinkable, the comment of a hard heart.

(2)

*Dear friends*

But the Scripture says, "Precious, very dear, of great value, highly esteemed in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

*Prayer - Foot Prayers*

Another passage of scripture which seems appropriate, today, <sup>is</sup> ~~the~~ the words of the Apostle Paul who said, as he came to the close of life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> course, I have ~~kept~~ <sup>kept</sup> the faith."

*my*

*Mary Carl she*

And like Paul, we could say of ~~him~~ <sup>she</sup>: ~~He~~ <sup>she</sup> has fought a good fight, ~~he~~ <sup>she</sup> has finished his course, and ~~he~~ <sup>she</sup> has kept the faith.

*STOP!!*

The Bible says many wonderful things about the death of a Christian.

We hear these words, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> their labors and their works do follow them." The word "Blessed" means "happy." You know, not all those who die are going to be happy, but only those who die "in the Lord" (as ~~Jesus~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> did) will come to know the supreme happiness that only God can give.

Again we read, "He giveth His beloved <sup>rest</sup> ~~sleep~~". Elizabeth Browning said that to her this was the ~~sweetest~~ <sup>sweetest</sup> verse in the Bible. We struggle, we worry and we strain through this life. Then the day Comes when God says it is time; and he calls us home. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

*Come*

I think it is wonderful to have this memorial service. A service without the body in view. Why? Because ~~Jesus~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> is not here. He has left his old worn-out body and he has gone to be with the Lord.

*Now*

I have shared with you some of the great promises from God's Word concerning our eternal destiny. ~~We, in this room~~ <sup>We</sup> will all die someday. 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. Other would tell you that regardless of what you do with Christ, we are all God's children and thus we will all be in heaven.

*that*

*a person*

But, the Christian faith teaches that ~~man~~ has a decision to make. And only those who accept ~~the~~ 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 personally accepted him as your Saviour? I am sure ~~Jesus~~, if ~~he~~ were here in this pulpit would say: Receive Jesus as your saviour and do it today.....

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of ~~Jesus~~, one of God's saints.....

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the H.S.*

Shall we pray

*Amen*



Benediction:

The peace of God, which passeth all ~~under~~ understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and Of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

Amen

