

Our Eternal Home

Billy Graham wrote in his book "Facing Death", "Today we are told how to look young, stay trim, keep healthy, have a good image, think positively, make more money, and have more friends. All these – indicate that we are trying desperately to cling to this present world. The truth is, life is transitory. "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14b) If we want to make the most of life, we need to face the fact that it is going to end."

As we look to God's Word for comfort today, I would like to focus our thoughts on the eternal home that God has prepared for _____ and the eternal home He is preparing for all of us. As I get older I begin to think about this more and more with an understanding that life really is very short and eternity is forever.

John 14:1-3 *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (2) "in My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

This is one of my favorite Scriptures, because it gives me so much hope and excitement as I look towards eternity.

Just think, the greatest carpenter that ever existed on earth and in heaven is building a dream home for you. Think about some of the most beautiful homes you have ever seen and the talent that went into designing and building one of those homes. It is nothing in comparison to what Jesus is preparing for you. All of the greatest talents that have ever existed in designing and building homes came from Him.

Colossians 1:15-17 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

Jesus is the Door to this eternal home.

John 10:9 *"I am the door, If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 8 *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven. (8) We are confident, yes, well pleased to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

The apostle Paul had such a glorious vision of eternity and heaven that he was in great turmoil over a desire to depart and be with Christ or to remain in the flesh. He realized that there was nothing in this life that offered any comparison to what eternity offered.

Philippians 1:23-24 *For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. (24) Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.*

This is the reality that must take shape in our lives if we are to be properly prepared to deal with, not only Juanita's death, but others as well. When this truth becomes reality for us death loses its sting.

Although! As I stated earlier for the Christian, death brings mixed feelings. In one sense we look upward and rejoice in the new found happiness and joy our loved one is experiencing in the hands of the Lord and in the reunion of those who have gone on before us. On the other hand we look downward and weep just as Jesus did when his friend Lazarus died, because there is a sense of loss and sad separation when a loved one has departed from our lives of whom we shall miss greatly.

This is why the writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes wrote:

Ecclesiastes 7:1 *A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth.*

And why the Psalmist says:

Psalms 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.*

Why is death precious in the sight of God? Could it be because He knows the wonders and the glory of eternity?

Eternal and Heavenly Realities

1. Heaven and Eternity are beyond our Wildest Expectations.

2 Corinthians 2:9-10 *But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (10) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

2. Our Place in Heaven is created according to our own Desires.

I believe the place that Jesus is preparing for each one of us and the one He has already prepared for Juanita, Sandy and Bill is according to our desires. The Bible says, that He is intimately acquainted with all of our ways and that He desires to give us the desires of our heart.

Psalms 139:3 *You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Psalms 37:4 *Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

How many of us have been somewhere, maybe in some one else's home and said, “Wow! This place is totally me. It's like it was built for me. Or maybe you were shopping and saw something you really liked and said. “Wow! This skirt or this outfit has my name written all over it.”

I believe, when we arrive at our eternal dwelling place this is what we are going to say... How did You know? This is great! I mean this beyond my wildest dreams and desires!

You see, God knows all there is to know about us, even things we don't quite know or have grasped about ourselves.

The beautiful thing is; that when we see it and experience it, we will recognize it as us and our unspoken desires as well as our spoken desires.

This is an aspect of eternal life in heaven that is going to be awesome and wonderful beyond our wildest imaginations. We are going to have the opportunity to make all of these wonderful discoveries about who we are and what our true desires are.

This is what _____ is now experiencing. This is what other loved ones who have passed away been experiencing for quite some time. They have been experiencing these wonderful discoveries.

3. Heaven is a Place of No More Sorrow, Pain and Crying.

Revelation 21:4 *“And God will wipe away every tear, from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

4. Heaven is a Place of Eternal Beauty.

Revelation 22:1-2 *And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

How can we help but rejoice with _____, who is now with the Lord Jesus Christ in this wonderful place of eternal beauty and rest, where there is no more pain, sorrow, death or crying. **They are** in that special place that has been eternally prepared for them. Let his heavenly reality fill your hearts with hope and assurance in the midst of the grief you are feeling over her loss. God will be there to comfort you and see you through this season of your life. He is faithful.

Remember: Jesus is the Door to this eternal home. There is no other way.

John 10:9 *“I am the door, If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

I believe this is something _____ would say to us if he/she had the opportunity:

Bury my body, but do not bury my beliefs,
Bury my heart, but do not bury my love,
Bury my eyes, but not my vision,
Bury my feet, but not the path of my life,
Bury my hands, but do not bury my efforts,
Bury my shoulders, but not the concerns I carried,
Bury me, but do not bury my life!
If you must bury something, bury my sins and my weaknesses,

But let my love for each of you continue in Jesus.