

THE BIBLE VIEW

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A Walk Through A Cemetery

Bill Brinkworth

Awaiting a graveside service, a meandering walk through a graveyard revealed many past lives. There were headstones of those that lived long lives; some had journeyed on this earth for 90 plus years. Those with varying ages of life dotted the neatly ordered cemetery.

Some stones were very old. In one section of the graveyard were unetched, plain rocks that were put over many graves. Possibly, they were used because those doing the burying could not afford a carved headstone, or they were so old that at the time there was no stone carver to create a tombstone.

Some of the stones revealed lives cut short by war, some of WWI and WWII, others from the Civil, Korean, and Vietnam wars. The thought that is known casually by others became a hard reality when it was seen that those soldiers gave their shortened lives for our freedoms.

The saddest of the chiseled memorials were those of children and young people. Some lived to one year and some less. There were some headstones with the young person's favorite toy etched on the cold stone. One grave was marked by a marble, little lamb. Oh, the hurt and tears that must have accompanied that youngster's body to that cold dirt-covered place that marks their shortened existence. An even more heart-breaking story was behind the markers of four different young children that died on the same day over 100 years ago. Their life was ended so suddenly, I am sure.

There were new sites that still had a small tent, where mourners huddled around the coffin of a missed loved one. At those graves, many tears flowed, and hearts were crushed over the loss of their loved ones.

Gazing over the field, hundreds of headstones are all that remains of past lives — cold stone markers. One truth was very clear; all will die one day. None will escape the sting of death. There may be ways to stall the inevitable, but everyone will one day occupy a place such as that — unless they, of course, are raptured up to Heaven without dying which God promised will happen one day.

As I wandered among the memorials, some thoughts crossed my mind. After those past lives lived their last moment, where are they now spending their eternity? Are they in Heaven or Hell? That field of memorials also reminded me of the urgency every Christian has to direct as many lives as they can to Heaven. Others need to have the assurance that they will one day dwell eternally with the Lord.

When your last moment on this Earth comes, where will you go next? Heaven or Hell? Has your reservation in Heaven been secured? Do not hope, or think so. Do not gamble with the most important possession you have, your eternal soul. Have you done what the Bible says one must do to spend eternity with the Lord? Have you been saved?

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

“Death to the Christian is the funeral of all his sorrows and evils, and the resurrection of all his joys.” — Aughey

No Sting

Bill Brinkworth

No one wants to talk about it, but the truth is everyone will die. Although most are not excited about the idea of having to go the way of the undertaker, we can have confidence that it can be a means to a better future!

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” I Cor. 15:22

Read what I Corinthians 15 teaches about death:

- The good news is that death does not need to be the end. It can be the beginning of a new life. You cannot have everlasting life until this body “gives up the ghost” (dies). *“But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.” I Cor. 15:35-36.* “Quickened” means “giving life.”
“... 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” I Cor. 15:41-44 One has to die to have the new spiritual body. It is God’s divine order:
“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.” I Cor. 15:46
- Eternity in Heaven will not be for everyone. There is only one way there, God’s way, as is recorded in the Bible. That way is having Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for all your sins. There are not many roads to get there. It is God’s Heaven, and it can only be reached the way He says.
“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6
“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.” I Cor. 15:1-2 Vain means “empty, worthless.” If you believe a way contrary to God’s way your belief is for naught. Those false ways include unbiblical traditions, rituals, superstitions, and ceremonies.

- If you are saved, you do not have to worry or fear the “sting of death.” A born-again believer can have the confidence of Heaven when it is God’s time for him to leave this world.

*“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”
I Cor. 15:54-55*

“Some die without having really lived, while others continue to live, in spite of the fact that they have died.” — *Author Unknown*

Heaven’s Roll Call

D. L. Moody

A wounded soldier, lay dying in his cot. Suddenly the death-like stillness of his room was broken by the cry, “Here! Here!”, which burst from the lips of the dying man.

Friends rushed to the spot and asked what he wanted. "Hark," he said, "they are calling the roll of Heaven, and I am answering to my name." In a few moments once more he whispered, "Here!" and passed into the presence of the King.

“Death is the opening of a more subtle life. In the flower, it sets free the perfume; in the chrysalis, the butterfly; in man the soul.” — *Adam*

“If You Were to Die Tomorrow?”

Spurgeon

Let us imitate Mr. Wesley’s calm anticipation of his end when it is our time.

A lady once asked Mr. Wesley, “Suppose that you knew you were to die at twelve o’clock tomorrow night. How would you spend the intervening time?”

“How, madam?” he replied, “Why just as I intend to spend it now. I should preach this evening at Gloucester and again at five tomorrow morning. After that, I should ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the society in the evening. I should then return to friend Martin’s house, who expects to entertain me; converse and pray with his family as usual; retire to my room at ten o’clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in glory.”

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:7*