

LIVING FOR THE DAY

Funeral message for a Christian by Gene McCoy

This dear saint lived for this day. She lived in the conscious awareness that life has a destination; that the journey of life that began at physical birth does not end at physical death. Just as we prepare for many journeys in life, life is all about preparing for the journey through the vale of Death.

In a sense, the Christian lives for the day of death – the day of departure from this life and entrance into life everlasting. The Christian accepts the Bible teaching that life on earth is followed by life in eternity; that how we live this life determines where and how we spend eternity. We understand the Bible teaching that we are destined to die once and after that comes judgment (Heb. 9:27 NLT).

That for which we live is the day

WHEN HOPE BECOMES REALITY (HEAVEN)

Of this present life the apostle Paul says

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Rom. 5:2-5

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is not only the guarantee of our full inheritance, but the power source by which we grow in the likeness of Jesus. That process of maturity is not without its challenges in our flesh. The apostle Paul later addresses this conflict between the flesh and the Spirit. The Christian, he says, has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. But, until that day when our body is redeemed, we continue to live in this world that is itself groaning under the curse of sin. Our present existence is in hope of that day when we shall be released from our struggle against the flesh. On that day we shall receive our full inheritance in the presence of God. That for which we had hoped shall become reality in that blessed home prepared for all of God's redeemed family.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Rom 8:22-25

Our departed sister is no longer living in hope. She has left the context of this world, which the Bible says we must live in persistent patience. She no longer lives in hope of the glory of God, but in the eternal presence of God's glory.

This is that for which

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5-7

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast . . .”

Heb. 6:19

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

1 Cor. 15:19

It was in this hope of resurrection to life everlasting that our sister lived and died. It is to this hope she directed all those she influenced. She would have us remember the exhortation of the Hebrew writer:

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:23-25

With our departed sister we join in repeating the words of the apostle Peter,

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

That for which we live is the day

WHEN FAITH BECOMES SIGHT

Many times I have wondered
about the sights of that city
and all that my eyes shall behold.

I will see all the wonders
when I enter that city,
there forever to be safe in His fold.

Here on earth we have troubles
that to us seem so heavy,
but in heaven no one will be sad
Mom and Dad will be singing,
heaven's praise will be ringing
for the dearest Friend I ever had.

Some morning you'll find me touring that city,
where the Son of God is the light

You'll find me there on the streets so pretty,
made of gold so pure and so bright.

With Jesus, the One who gave me the victory,
Who led me across the divide.

Some morning you'll find me touring that city,
where with Him I will ever abide.

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Cor. 5:6-10

On that day when we awake in eternal glory, we shall see

that for which we had hoped and longed. Then we will realize the reward for our perseverance and faithfulness. Then we will receive the victor's crown as we stand before the throne dressed in Jesus' robe of righteousness. Then we will experience the truthfulness of John's testimony:

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5

That for which we live is the day

WHEN THE CONQUERED BECOMES THE CONQUEROR

When Jesus died, it appeared to be defeat. The resurrection transformed the defeat of death into the victory of everlasting life. Satan had inflicted a bruising blow to Jesus' heel, according to the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. But Jesus crushed Satan's head when He conquered death through His glorious resurrection.

Throughout history God's people have come up against seemingly impossible odds when it appeared to the eye of flesh that the forces of evil would prevail. But the eye of faith sees the victory promised to God's faithful ones.

Those who surrender to Jesus are victors in life. We have become more than conquerors through Him who loves us. Death is our final enemy. But it is a vanquished enemy, due to our Lord's resurrection. As a result, our physical death and departure from this life is merely the next step in the procession that culminates in our grand coronation when we are awarded our robe and crown and welcomed at the heavenly portals with words of commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your salvation."

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 8:31-39

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:50-58

Those who live for the Lord every day live for this day when

1.Hope Becomes Reality (Heaven)

2.Faith Becomes Sight

3.The Conquered Becomes the Conqueror

So live as to so die.

There is coming a day
When no heartaches shall come
No more clouds in the sky
No more tears to dim the eye
All is peace forevermore
On that happy golden shore
What a day, glorious day that will be!

Chorus

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see
And I look upon His face
The One who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the promised land,
What a day, glorious day that will be!

There'll be no sorrow there
No more burdens to bear
No more sickness, no pain
No more parting over there
And forever I will be
With the One who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be!

By Jim Hill

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