

We have all attended the funeral of someone. It is a time of sadness and grief. I have never heard a funeral message where the preacher's message at the funeral pointed out that the person was an unbeliever and lost. Often times I suppose that if the preacher knows the person was not a believer it is out of sorrow and respect for the family that the fate of the deceased is not mentioned. So things such as "they're in a better place" they're not in pain anymore" or "may they rest in peace" are the phrases used to bring comfort. However none of these things are true; because the unbeliever is not in a better place and their pain is just really beginning and there will be no peace. If you go to a funeral one would believe that everyone is saved and heaven is their home; but what if the truth of the unbeliever was actually spoken of at their funeral?

Pause, stranger, when you pass me by
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so you will be
So prepare for death and follow me

An unknown passerby read those words and underneath scratched this reply:

To follow you I'm not content
Until I know which way you went
-supposedly engraved on an old tombstone in a cemetery in Indiana

Funeral for an Unbeliever

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

We are gathered here today to remember this lost soul. There is nothing that I will say today that will change one thing. What has been done in this life is done. The choices that he made cannot now be undone. He was born for Hell and never made the decision to change his fate.

This lost soul before us was born in sin

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

This lost soul never trusted in the only thing that could change his fate.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

This poor lost soul in his unbelief was blinded to the LORD by the prince of this world.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

His pride in this life and his blindness to the reality of God and the creation which he walked in all the days of his life have forged an eternal fate; and the reality he refused to see in this life; is now all too real in the next. My friends let us mourn at the tragedy of it but in the end he is without excuse.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

“IN A BETTER PLACE:” NOT

I wish I had comforting words for you here today but I cannot truthfully say to you that “he is in a better place” because he is not.

Proverbs 24:20 For there shall be no reward to the evil *man*; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Revelation 20: 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

No I cannot speak the truth and tell you that this dear lost soul is in a better place; for he is not. He is forever in a place of spiritual death and separation from God. He erased his name from the book of life moment by moment for a lifetime. That which has been erased cannot now be re-written. Darkness and torment shall clothe him; for mercy and grace has fled. No, no he is not in a better place; but rather he is in a bitter place and has not died once but has now died twice.

“NOT IN PAIN ANYMORE;” WRONG

No I cannot speak the truth and tell you that he “is not in pain anymore” for I would be bound to a lie. This poor lost soul shall have no peace or comfort. The peace he rejected in life has now no place for him in death. The peace Jesus offered him was rejected; oh, but now if he could have it he would accept it a thousand times over; but he fled all his life from God and now God has left him to his own choice. Peace, what is peace in a place such as Hell?

This poor lost soul was considered by many to be a good man upon this earth. He provided for his family, worked hard and was a good friend to many. He wasn't a thief or murderer, and he even attended church from time to time throughout the years. But even good men and women go to Hell; for only through Faith in the LORD Jesus can Heaven be gained. Perhaps he thought that just being good was good enough; the folly of such thinking is now all too real to him.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

Beloved good works will not get you to heaven; and to say our unsaved departed loved ones that have left this earthly place are not in any more pain is not the reality of the situation. While physical pain to the flesh may now have ceased; a far worse torment and pain is now upon the soul and spirit. No they are not in a better place and yes they are in pain and anguish where the flames are never quenched. No behind this peaceful looking face in this casket is a spirit in the torments and agony of Hell.

“REST IN PEACE;” IMPOSSIBLE

“May he rest in peace”? For the unbeliever this is impossible. He shall forever be separated from the Living God and that which he rejected has now rejected him. It cannot be undone; the chance has passed and the eternity he chose is sealed. You see death changes nothing. The state in which this poor lost soul died is the state in which he will be for all eternity.

Ecclesiastes 11:3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Where the tree falleth there it shall be; and in the condition that death found this poor soul; for all eternity he shall remain. Death changes nothing in eternity. For to die unjust is to remain unjust for eternity, and to die filthy is to remain eternally filthy. Those that die in their sins shall remain in their sins, and those that die under punishment shall remain in punishment for eternity. It is an everlasting state and there is no resting in peace. “They rest in peace” what a most bitter and cruel lie for those that die without the LORD Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

No; this poor lost soul is not in a better place and his pain has not ceased but only begun. He will never rest in peace; the death face he wears now while it might look peaceful; it hides the weeping and gnashing of the spirit tormented in eternal punishment and fire. He is in everlasting contempt; that is the reality of his death; I wish I could tell you different; but the truth says otherwise.

Another truth is that while this poor lost soul is ultimately responsible for the choice he made; did you help write his epitaph by not sharing the love of God with him? Did you neglect the great commission; did you share the gospel with him? Is there someone in your life that you can share the plan of salvation with; that their epitaph may be written to glory and not damnation? Have you done anything to change the tragic course of some lost soul in your path?

Here lies poor lost soul;
He came and left this world the same;
Born in sin and not forsaking the flame;

In life the Lamb he rejected and the eternal pain I supposed is not what he expected;
So mourn him for the hell he now endures; and the fate he has selected.

JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory