

We are always to remember that our <sup>memorial</sup> funeral services are not for the dead, but for the living. There is no word that we can say which can reach the ear of Don. There is no music, however sweet, that can touch ~~his~~ heart. And, although we would pay a tribute to ~~him~~ and ~~his~~ christian life, ~~this~~ service is primarily for those who are gathered here today out of love and respect for Don.

The great question that comes to mind when one dies is this: "Was ~~he~~ ready to go?" We thank God that Don settled this matter many years ago when he repented of his sins and trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

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 their labors and their works do follow them."

The word "blessed" here means "happy". Not all those who die are going to be happy, but those who die "in the Lord" will come to know the supreme happiness that only God can give.

*omit* Then we read ~~in~~ in the book of Psalms, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." The word "precious" means "of great value." Of tremendous worth." Of great value and tremendous worth to God is the death of one of his saints. John Wesley said on one occasion, "Our people die well."

Again we read, "He (meaning God) giveth His beloved sleep." We struggle and strain, we worry and fret through this life. We become tired and worn out. And then God puts us to sleep for a while and we wake up in glory.

Again we read, "absent from the body, present with the Lord." The body is put away in the grave, but the real person is not there. ~~The christian~~ <sup>Don</sup> has simply left his old worn-out body down here and has gone out to be with the Lord...You know, isn't that wonderful?.....Absent from the body, present with the Lord."...

Read John 14:1-6

Let me share with you some of the blessings that a Christian receives by dying. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Does a person gain anything when he dies? <sup>Don't you</sup> ~~Doesn't~~ he have to leave everything behind, <sup>you</sup> ~~his~~ home, <sup>you</sup> ~~his~~ loved ones, <sup>you</sup> ~~his~~ friends? Yes....that is true, ...but <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ can say that <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ has lived for Christ, <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ can know that <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ will gain infinitely more in death than <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ can every gain in this life.

(1 ) He gains freedom

Freedom from all the aches and pains and sorrows and sufferings and problems and troubles of this world.....In Don's case, freedom from a worn out <sup>Brain</sup> ~~heart~~. He has a brain new one....

Oh, dear friends, we gain freedom when we die in Christ.

(2 ) He gains fellowship

Think about that!!! The christian in dying gains the sweetest fellowship ever enjoyed by anyone. Fellowship with all the great people of the Bible. Fellowship with all the great saint of all ages. Fellowship with all the loved ones whom we have loved long since and lost awhile.

And best of all, fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, who made heaven possible for us.

Oh, the dear ones in glory, how they beckon me to come,

And our parting at the river I recall,

To the sweet vales of Eden, they shall sing my welcome home,

But I long to see my Saviour first of all.

(3 ) Don ~~gains~~ gains fullness of knowledge

Oh, there are so many things down here that we don't understand. We wonder why sin comes into our lives and breaks our hearts and our hopes. We wonder why so often some fine and useful person is taken away and another is left who makes no contribution to the world's benefit. We will never understand these things down here. But, someday in the golden glow of that place called heaven, we will sit down at the master's feet and he will explain it all.

Then we will see that some of the things which caused us so much sorrow here on earth, were simply blessings in disguise, and God allowed them to come to us for our good and his glory.

*Dear Family*

Not, now, but in the coming years,  
It may be in the better land,  
We'll read the meaning of our tears,  
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

I would also like to remaind you <sup>of a Couple of Truths</sup> ~~some things~~ relating to your comfort.

(1 ) ~~Oh, friends,~~ you are comforted in remembering that death isn't all.

Beyond this vale of tears there is another life and another land. The grave is not our goal. We look forward to a new home of joy and blessing which will be ours when we leave this earthly home.

(2 ) But ~~our~~ greatest comfort comes from Jesus Christ.

*Read mat 11: 28-29*

One day he spoke to a group of people just like us and He said, "Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

*And Dear Family* ~~And~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> He stands today with open arms and says the same thing to you. Just come to Him, lean your head upon his breast and He will give you the rest and the comfort and the grace and the courage you need for this hour and all the hours to come.

A lady that I know went through a serious and delicate <sup>throat</sup> ~~throat~~ operation. Later I asked her to tell me about it. And she said, "When they rolled me out of my hospital room and toward the operating room, I just closed my eyes and turned it all over to <sup>Jesus</sup> ~~God~~, and He gave me peace and brought me safely through."

*Dear Family* So I bid you today to turn all your sorrow over to Jesus. He will bring you safely through, giving you grace and comfort for today and courage for all of your tomorrows.

*Look Full in His wonderful face*  
Turn your eyes upon Jesus. For that is the only way to personal prepare for death. Like Solomon, He that believeth on the Son has everlasting life."

*Dear* So may God bless the membor of DDor. And may he bless and comfort all of you who mourn today. And may all <sup>of</sup> ~~us~~ us, place our hands in the nail-pierced hand of Jesus and follow Him until He takes us home.....

God alone can turn the shadows of your night into sunrise of  
tomorrow.

Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest;  
Lay down thy head upon thy Savior's breast;  
We love thee well, But Jesus loves thee best -  
Good-night, My Beloved, good-night.

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep  
But thou shalt wake no more to toil and weep  
Thine is a perfect rest secure and deep  
Good-night, My Beloved, Goodnight

Until the Easter glory lights the skies,  
Until the dead in Jesus Shall arise,  
And He shall come, but not in lowly guise  
Good-night, My beloved, good night

Until made beautiful by Love Divine,  
Thou, in the likeness of thy Lord shalt shine  
And he shall bring that golden crown of thine  
Good-night, my-beloved, good-night

Only Good-night, beloved, not farewell  
A little while and all his saints shall dwell  
In hallowed union indivisible  
Good-night, My beloved, good-night.