



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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“Our Forever Home”

by

Jeff Haught

I once heard the story of a boy who had lost his parents and family at a young age and was living in an orphanage. His greatest desire was to one day be adopted by loving parents and be secure in his family life. However, his reality involved being transferred in and out of foster homes after only brief stays, as many of those homes left a lot to be desired in terms of a stable, loving home life. The emptiness and heartbreak within him seemed like it would never end.

Finally, one day a very kind and loving couple came to the orphanage to meet the boy and decided to adopt him. After meeting them and arriving at their house, the boy knew there was something special about his adoptive parents, and the home they had established. Not only were his physical needs abundantly provided for but he felt safe, secure,

cared for, and loved. The feelings of harshness and turmoil he experienced in so many of the foster homes he had lived in seemed to evaporate in this new environment. Over time he began to feel an inner calm and peace that he had once only dreamed about.

One evening while some of his new parent’s friends were visiting they asked the boy what he thought about living in his new home. The boy responded very simply and enthusiastically, “This is my forever home!”

The thought or idea of a “forever home” is one with which every Christian should be well acquainted. It is one that we should be able to relate to in a far greater way than many. An everlasting and eternal “forever home” for our soul is a grounding and supporting pillar of our hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible clearly establishes that God created man as a spiritual being with a living soul housed within an earthly body created from the dust of the earth. “*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed*

The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

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into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul,” (Gen. 2:7). As a consequence of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God explained to Adam that his earthly body made from the dust of the ground would one day return to the dust of the ground. “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it

thou wast taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return,” (Gen. 3:19).

Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes, reminds us that remembering our Creator while we are young grants us the proper perspective throughout our advancing life. He reminds us in a very profound and poetic way that our earthly bodies will slowly die, if not by trauma or disease but through time itself, and that man “goeth to his ‘long home’.” And as again, our earthly bodies will return to the dust of the earth, but that also our spirit or soul will return to God. “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’:

² *While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;*

³ *In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down;*

When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;

⁴ *When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is*

low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low. ⁵Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.

⁶ *Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed,^[a]*

Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.

⁷ *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it,”*(Eccl. 12:1-7). The ups and downs, twists and turns of aging in this life on earth should remind us that we are not home yet.

All too often we forget that our earthly bodies are simply temporary housing for our eternal souls. It is not the “forever home” for our soul. We forget that our souls will be released from our bodies at the time of our death and will return unto God for his consideration. This thought should strike fear into the

hearts of many. However, the great irony in many cases is that those outside of Christ who should be afraid are not, while believers in Christ are afraid. As faithful Christians, we don’t have to be afraid. Jesus Christ has secured the victory over death through his death, burial and resurrection. The believer can share in that victory with Him. “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”^[a]

⁵⁵ *“O Death, where is your sting?^[b]*

O Hades, where is your victory?”^[c]

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,”* (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

Someone once said that the greatest calamity for a person is not to feel far from home when you are, but to feel right at home when you are not. We must each remember that “this world is not my home, I’m just a passin’ thru.” Our earthly bodies and this world are not our home. It will only serve for the time being as hopefully we prepare ourselves to enter our “forever home.”