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“What Lies on the Other Side of Life?”

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From “Inspiring Stories” is an article entitled, “What Lies on the Other Side of Life?” It was written by an author unknown to me. It reads:

“A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, ‘Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.’

Very quietly, the doctor said, ‘I don’t know.’

‘You don’t know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?’

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room with his tail wagging and an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, ‘Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside...He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door was opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough.’

I believe you would agree that the above article gives us much to think about, does it not?

As New Testament Christians we certainly have an advantage over those we read about in the Old Testament concerning the question: “What lies on the other side of life?”

Paul said to Timothy that Christ has, “...Abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10).

And yet, there is much we do not know about lies on the other side of life. Perhaps many questions we may have for which, God’s word has not revealed the answers.

However, that being said, we need not be overly concerned about the subject.

In Revelation 1:18 we are taught that Jesus has the keys of death and of hades (the unseen realm of the dead). It is the place where disembodied spirits go after death to await the judgment. The passage reads, “I am He who lives and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of hades and of death.”

The idea of having the keys is the idea of possessing authority. Jesus is Lord then or has authority over not just death but over the hadean realm, as well. And as someone has rightly stated, “We should not fear to go where our Savior holds the keys.”

Jesus Himself said as much to His disciples in John 14. Beginning in verse one of the chapter we read, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

I would think this passage would help allay any fears we may have regarding what lies beyond this life.

Further, wouldn’t it be wonderful to share or cultivate the same attitude as the apostle Paul regarding what lies beyond this life? In writing to the church at Philippi, he said, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what shall I choose I cannot

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tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless, to remain in the flesh is more needful for you” (Phil. 1:21-24).

Paul was not overly concerned about what lies beyond this life but in reality, looked forward to being with his Master on the other side. As a matter of fact, I think he looked forward to it with great anticipation and joy.

At the end of his life this is what he wrote to the young evangelist, Timothy, in (2 Tim. 4) beginning in verse 6, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the righteous Judge will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Does that sound to you like a man who feared what lies on the other side of life? Not at all. It really sounds like a man who is looking forward to what lies ahead with great anticipation and joy. Just as he had remarked earlier to the brethren at Philippi, he understood that for him to die in Christ was great gain.

I don’t have all the answers for what lies ahead on the other side of life, no one does. But this much I know; that for the faithful child of God, what lies ahead is far better than anything this world has to offer.

Take note of this passage found in Revelation 21:1-7, as John is permitted to see the church in its final state of glory: “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”

And so, we return to the original question: “What lies on the other side of life?” To which we reply, “I know my Master is there and that is enough!”

ALWAYS MOTHER

Always a smile to brighten the road,

Always a hand to lighten the load,

Always a prayer to keep us all well,

Always near when there’s something to tell -

That’s Mother.

- Author Unknown

From: “church bulletin bits,” #4, pg. 49