## There Is Hope. He Is…

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cheerfully to her husband the evening before, and exhorted him to dismiss his sorrow, he was concerned about his wife.

He asked her the cause of her sudden grief.

Hesitating a little, she replied that in a dream it seemed a messenger had come from Heaven and brought news that God was dead, and that all the angels and others were weeping. Hope was gone."

"Foolish woman," said the husband, "you know quite well that God cannot die!"

"Indeed," replied the wife, "and if that be certain, how come it is that you are now sorrowful over your problem as if He really did no longer exist, or, at least, as if He were unable to control what is happening in your life. My dear husband, learn to trust Him. He is in control. He is not dead."

**"THE *GREATEST* GRIEFS ARE THOSE WE CAUSE OURSELVES."**

*— Sophocles*

I know in the future, we too will have a great reunion. What a comfort it is to remember her great faithfulness, her toiling for the Lord, and her diligence in reaching others with the Gospel.

Every life has a story. We can surmise how some lived and died by reading the etched brief information on their headstones. But all that we can read is their past. All souls live on, and we have little knowledge of their eternal "life" now and in the future. When your body gives its last breath and your body lies in a cemetery, what will an onlooker remember, wonder, or read about your life? Are you confident that your eternal soul will be in Heaven with the Lord, or will you finally recognize that you wasted an opportunity for Heaven? Oh, what an agonizing eternal error that would be.

Trust Christ and live for Him today. Life is shorter than you think.

*"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14*

## Tip-toeing Through…

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*"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."*
*Psalm 116:15*

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# The Bible View

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## Tip-toeing Through the Tombstones

*Bill Brinkworth*

After visiting cemeteries, I often wandered among tombstones that, for many, were the only remaining memories of people who once lived. The visits were a solemn reminder that life will come to an end for all, and our mark on this world may soon vanish.

Only cold granite stones remains of lives that once laughed, traveled, did good or bad deeds, brought lives into this world, and so much more. Invisible to us, however, their soul still lives on, but where?

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

Towards the front of a cemetery were five large plain stones without an etched name or date. The rocks were carefully manicured to remove overgrown grass, just like all the other monuments. A sign near the markers stated that they were monuments to unknown people.

Perhaps the markers were placed before a stone mason was available to chisel their personal information on the rocks. Maybe they were very poor and could not afford a better monument. Not even their names were remembered. There was no memory of them at all.

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## There Is Hope. He Is Alive.

*Gotthold*

A wife observed her husband, who was dejected by some misfortune that had befallen him. To such a degree was the grief that he could not sleep. His sadness was quite apparent.

She pretended to be very upset in the morning and cried and moaned. As she had spoken

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## Tip-toeing Through ...

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They are forgotten to us, but not to God. He knows who they are, what they did, and why and when they died. I wonder where they are. Are they in Heaven or Hell for all those centuries?

Further along in a graveyard, there were three crudely carved headstones. All three had the same last names, different birth dates, but the same day of death. From the dates on the stones, I could tell they were very young children.

What happened that they all died on the same day? Was it a raging epidemic? Was it a catastrophic fire that they all perished in? Lord knows, and their ages were very young, so they probably were not old enough to decide to trust and understand Christ as their Saviour. But, if that is so, they are still in Heaven with their Heavenly Father.

*"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16*

*"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14* Also: Matthew 18:10, 21:16.

Next to their markers were no headstones with the same last name. Their parents were not buried next to them. How did the adults handle the great loss of their children? Did they get angry, shake their fist at God, and blame Him? Did they ruin their lives because they did not overcome their grief? Or did they turn their sadness over to the Lord and remain faithful to Him even through that great loss? Wherever they are buried, what was chiseled on their headstone?

*"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18*

*"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."*

*Psalm 145:18*

Four or five stones together were a reminder that there lie the remains of local soldiers who died in a World War II battlefield. They gave their lives to secure their country, but where are their souls now? Are they in Heaven or Hell? Although great was their sacrifice, that great deed alone would not get them to Heaven.

Did they get saved before the Service, or perhaps a rare conversion just before leaving this world? Did they cling to the promises underlined in their small Blbles they were given when they first enlisted and always carried with them?

**"Grief drives men into habits of serious reflections, sharpens the understanding, and softens the heart."**

*— John Adams*



*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

*Romans 10:9*

Side by side were two other stones, marking the resting places of a husband and wife. Apparently, the husband died first. Was he a born-again child of God? Is he in Heaven?

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13*

Twenty years later, the wife apparently died, with the same last name as her husband. As her last name was the same as her husband's, I suppose she never remarried.

She spent all those years most likely by herself. Did her children visit her, or did they go about their lives ignoring their mother's great grief?

How did she handle the sadness she must have carried? Did she ever get saved? Is she in Heaven with her husband, or is she in agony alone in Hell? If she and her husband were both saved, I am sure it was a grand reunion in Glory.

Another stone clearly told whose remains were under the chiseled little lamb headstone. Apparently, a young child died and was buried there. Again, how did the parents handle the grief?

I imagine it was difficult for them. But did they take the time of great sadness and realize that one day their time would come? Did they get saved? Their child was older according to the etched dates. Was the child saved? Was there a great reunion for that family in Eternity?

A whole row of memorials all had the same last name. Most had some indication that the person was saved. There were crosses and verses etched on many of the monuments. It appeared to be a family including grandparents, parents, and some children. It was apparently a Christian family.

Were they all saved, or did some of the "residents" claim to be born-again but were not, and opened their eyes to a terrifying eternity? Or were they all born-again and living for the Lord? If so, I am sure there is still a great reunion in Heaven.

One stone had a last name that was not on any of the other nearby monuments. The dates indicated that the person lived a long life. Did he live it alone? Was he ever married? Did he die alone? If alone, how did he manage? Did that person ever get saved? Where is he residing now?

Then I came upon a newly laid stone. The plastic flowers put down by the funeral parlor remained. It was the burial place of my wife of 36 years.

I did not have to wonder about that woman's past or where she is living for eternity. She was saved and served the Lord for over 40 years. I know where she is now. There is no guessing.

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