

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, October 14, 2007

"In A Better Place – or Not?"

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.", (I Corinthians 15:55-57)

In recent months, several of our number have experienced the loss of a loved one. Undoubtedly, all have spent some amount of time in grief. This is certainly natural – even "Jesus wept"

Yet, for the faithfully obedient child of God, death could be viewed almost like going through a door. You don't know exactly what's on the other side, so you are cautious while opening it.

The verses above tell us that God understands how we perceive death. And uses the word "sting" in order to compel us to think of pain. Yet, He also tells us that the resurrected Christ has already removed that pain – for those who choose to follow Him. Of course, this cannot be said for the one who refuses to obey the Gospel of Christ or the one who refuses to follow Christ. In fact, one may understand that ANY of the promises of which we read in Scripture is dependent on being in Christ.

So, while no one of us wants to be judge or jury regarding any other who has died, let us also understand that it is only the living who still has the opportunity to affect where that soul will spend eternity.

God has given each human a choice. Yet, this gift from God is, in one way, similar a double sided coin; the same coin can turn up heads or tails and the same person can decide whether to follow Christ or not. BUT, notice there is also a difference; the coin has no choice – this is chance.

So, the one who has CHOSEN Christ, need not fear death anymore for Christ has died and risen. He has taken the sting from death, not need to fear death anymore. Christ has died and risen again. He has taken the sting from death.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal