

Leaving this World

In just a few minutes, I'll be sharing with you something from the Word of God that the Lord has placed on my heart. Did you ever stop to think how good it's going to be one of these days? We're going to be taken up. We're not going to be left here but we're going to go to be with the Lord. The Christian can't lose, and as we stop and think, there is turmoil that comes into our lives just as it does anyone else's. Someone says the Christian life is not a bed of roses. Well, that's true. We do have problems. We will have problems as long as we're in this flesh, but thank God, one of these days, we're going to be gone and we're not going to have to worry anymore.

(Musical interlude)

What a homecoming day that will be when we who are saved go to be with the Lord. One of these days, we won't have to face life's problems anymore. We won't be burdened down with these old sickly bodies. We will be leaving this world, and all the problems we face now we will leave behind. Those who have trusted Christ as Savior by faith are said to be pilgrims and strangers on this Earth. Some have already gone to be with the Lord, and they had this testimony. These all died in faith not having received the promises but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the Earth. Hebrews 11:13 talks about that.

And you know, Hebrews 11 is called the Faith Hall of Fame, and as we read this, we see that we are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, and that's what this chapter is talking about in Hebrews 11, about those witnesses, those people who were pilgrims

and strangers in this land. And guess what, you and I as saved people are pilgrims and strangers on this Earth. This world's not our home. Our home waits for us in Heaven. Jesus Christ ensured that we would have a home by giving His life on the cross of Calvary that you and I one day could be with Him forever. In fact, the Bible says we who are saved are ambassadors for Christ.

Second Corinthians 5:20 says, *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.* Now, as ambassadors for Christ, we are to talk to people, to reconcile, to help them be reconciled to God, and say, "Look, you need to be saved. You need to trust Jesus as your Savior." Why should we do that? Because we're saved. Because we are ambassadors for Christ. We represent the Lord of Glory. And you know something? When an ambassador for a country is finished representing his or her country, that ambassador is called home.

The song that we heard says, "How do I look leaving this world where I never belonged anyway." Christian, we're only visitors in this present world. One day, it will be time to go home to Heaven. Some will go by way of the grave while others will go up when the trump of God sounds.

The Bible says this in I Corinthians 15:51-58: *Behold, I shew you a mystery...* Now, when you see that term "mystery," some people will stop there and they'll say, "Well, we don't know," but God's getting ready to tell us what the mystery is here. He says, *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,* *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the*

trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* ⁵⁵*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?* ⁵⁶*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁵⁸*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Everybody will not go by the way of the grave but will go up when Jesus says it's time to come home. Many of us will go by the way of the grave. In other words, this old body is going to give up the breath of life, and we've seen friends and loved ones who've gone this way and they've been placed in the grave. Well, they're not there. That's just the old shell that contained the real person. That person has gone home if they've trusted Jesus as Savior. They've gone home to be with the Lord. And that's what's going to happen to us if we go before He comes back in the clouds to receive us in the Rapture of the Church.

First Thessalonians 4:15-18 says this: ¹⁵*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [or precede] them which are asleep.* [Those who are asleep are those friends and loved ones who've gone on before. Now, they're not asleep in the grave as some would have you to believe, but they are now with the Lord. The real person is with the Lord. The Bible speaks of those which are asleep, and you know it's

something that, when we think of that person who's gone on to be with the Lord, the Bible doesn't often say they're dead. The Bible says they've fallen asleep in the Lord. In other words, they have trusted Jesus to save them; they've trusted Jesus to take them home one day, and they have simply gone out into eternity in the peacefulness that God has proclaimed that they would have. They would go out with the joy of the Lord in their heart and on their lips.

But the Bible says there, those of us who are alive, we're not going to go before these people who have gone before us. It says in I Thessalonians 4:16: ¹⁶*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* ¹⁷*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* ¹⁸*Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

That brings comfort to my heart, knowing that one day I'm going to see my loved ones, I'm going to see my friends who have gone on before, and it also comforts my heart to know that I'll be with them in glory.

What will it be like when we go home? We, of course, do not know everything that will take place after we go home to be with the Lord; however, we do know some things.

The Bible says in I John 3:1-3: ¹*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.* ²*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;*

for we shall see him as he is. 3And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

We don't know everything as Christians. We don't know everything that's going to take place when we get to Heaven, but we know that when we shall see Jesus, we're going to see Him as He is and we're going to be like Him.

Now, we're not going to have the nail prints in our hands; we're not going to have the scars of the nails in our feet, the place where the nails went through, and we're not going to have that place in the side where the spear went through Christ at His death. He was already dead, by the way, and the Bible tells us that He died, He was buried, and He resurrected on that third day, and because He lives, you and I will live one day with Him in glory, and we're going to be made like Him. We're going to have bodies fashioned like His. We're going to retain our identities, but our bodies are going to be flesh and bone and nothing is going to take that from us. We will never die again. If we go to the grave that's death. We'll never die again.

Second Corinthians 4:18 says, *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Second Corinthians 5:1-2: *1For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.*

Now, this may not be the day that you go up in the Rapture of the Church, but one thing is certain. How ever you as a saved person leave

this life, you will be with the Lord if you have trusted Jesus as your Savior. You can leave this world behind one day as a saved person. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, one thing is for certain, you will be going home and that home is Heaven.

If you have not trusted Christ to take you to Heaven, why not? Receive Him now. Ask Him to come into your heart and one day you, too, will say, "I'm going home to be with my Lord."

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.