

February 6, 2020

Scott's Thoughts



Thursday, Ava and I felt the warmth and love of family as we stood in a bone chilling wind to attend a funeral for the mother-in-law of one of our members. I had met her several times since moving to

Newkirk. I did not I know her well, but have spoken often with people that have known her for many, many years. They all speak of her in glowing terms. One of the repeated comments is, “she loved to laugh.” That is something I can attest to personally.

I visited with her one day in the common area of the nursing home where she lived. When I entered, she was seated at a round table with several others. I sat down beside her and we started talking. Someone at the table asked if we were related. She was about to answer and I cut her off saying, “Yes, she is my sister, can’t you see the resemblance?” We, after all, were brother and sister in Christ. She did not hesitate and picked it up and ran with it. As we continued speaking, we received an occasional look of confusion from the others at the table. I have no idea if she ever told them any differently, but I left her smiling as was I.

Hers was a life well lived. About 25 gathered at the grave side as one of her relatives officiated. He said some things that stimulated my thoughts. Often after the last prayer someone will say, “Well, it’s finished.” Or after the last of the funeral dishes or the house is cleaned for the last

time. “It is finished.” But in her case, because I know the circumstance, her life is only now beginning.

She has known for years that she has never had the ability to save herself but she was responsible for her actions in this life. She had lived a faithful Christian life most of her 87 years. The day she passed from this life, the long time burden of failing physical health was lifted as angels escorted her to Abraham’s bosom. Time no longer matters, age is nothing, pain is completely and totally gone and tears are a thing of her earthly past. She now enjoys a rest that will never end. There will be no boredom because there will be plenty of desire to praise God and celebrate with all the redeemed for ages without end.

The first century church suffered from a lack of belief in the next life and the apostle Paul told them, “If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:19, ESV).

Maybe you don’t believe, or find it hard to believe in the kind, compassionate God who is willing to share his home with mankind. It is all in the pages of your Bible. Come study alongside us.

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott