

505 Where is the Queen?

We have probably all noticed the tendency of television commentators in recent days to speak of our late Queen as if she is still here. So for example they tell us, “The Queen has left Scotland for the last time ... the Queen is spending her final night at Buckingham Palace ...the Queen is lying in state”, and so on. Few of them have recognised reality by speaking each time of “the Queen’s body ...”, which is what they should be saying, for there is now a world of a difference between where “the Queen” is and where “the Queen’s body” is!

In His Word the Lord has explained to us all enough of what we need to know over what happens to someone after their physical death, and this is an appropriate time for us briefly to be reminded of these truths.

At the heart of the matter is how our righteous, loving Creator receives into eternal fellowship with Himself the people He has created, who are now, by nature, UNrighteous. The solutions of the various Man-made “World Faiths” claim that this desired goal of righteousness before God can be finally achieved.by human effort and goodness.

But the one true, God-revealed Faith, the Judeo-Christian Faith, states the obvious fact that sinful Man can never, ever achieve a God-satisfying righteousness by his own efforts. In His grace and love, Almighty God has cracked the problem Himself by sending His divine, sinless Son into this world as One of us. On that foul cross Jesus’ sinless blood was shed on our behalf, in our place (eg., Romans 5.6-9). So - “now the righteousness of God ... is manifested ... [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe ... Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God ...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (from Romans 3.24-26, KJV).

In short, God the Father now counts the believer in Christ as being righteous in His sight, on account of that sinner’s acceptance of the blood of Jesus shed on his or her behalf.

So we can now come to the whereabouts of our late Queen who, praise God, has put her faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, personally and publicly; by that faith she is counted as righteous in God’s sight. Now therefore after her physical death, firstly, her human spirit – that which gives each

of us life, and is well defined as “that area of human awareness most sensitive to matters of the spiritual realm” – has been returned to its Owner, God the Father (egs., Genesis 2.7 / Psalm 31.5 / Ecclesiastes 12.7 / Luke 23.46 / Acts 7.59).

Next, her soul is now in “Paradise”, (originally a Persian word meaning “the garden of kings”), where the righteous are welcomed into Jesus’ presence after their physical death (eg., Luke 23.43 / Revelation 2.7 & I John 5.4-5).

Finally, the Queen’s physical body will be laid to rest, to await its glorious resurrection at the seizing-away of the true Church (Romans 8.11 / I Corinthians 15.51-52 / Philippians 3.20-21 / I Thessalonians 4.13-18).

We must also now mention those who die in their sins, the unrighteous dead, who have not availed themselves of God the Father’s forgiveness and gift of righteousness by faith in the blood of Christ. Their souls go to Hades (in the Greek, “Sheol” in the Hebrew, meaning simply “the unseen place”, but badly translated in the KJV as “hell”), where they await the judgment (egs., Luke 16.19-31 / Hebrews 9.27-28 / Revelation 20.11-15). Yet still, “God desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live” (from the words of Absolution, Book of Common Prayer).

Unfortunately some people assume that physical death is nothing to be concerned about anyway. Supporting that false view is a Christ-less poem favoured at funerals along the lines of “Death is nothing at all, I am only in the next room, and will see you again soon”. Really? Others wrongly assume that after their death they will be “just fine anyway” when facing their Creator, on the grounds that “the scales” of their life are weighted far more heavily on the “nice side” than on the “nasty side”. Really? – but “all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64.6a, KJV).

Our Lord God and Father has clearly set out for all to know the Facts regarding life and death, and sin, judgment and forgiveness. These Facts are centred upon the Lord Jesus Christ, whose tomb - always worth our remembering - is empty. By God’s grace our late Queen got these things right, so she is now in Paradise with the Lord.

Truly, God has saved the Queen.

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