

Billy Graham's New Suit

The Rev. Billy Graham, Jesus Christ's ambassador to the world, died Wednesday morning at his home in Montreat, North Carolina, at the age of 99.

The Christian evangelist, whose global crusades and role as advisor to decades of U.S. presidents made him one of the best known religious figures of his time, was regularly listed in polls as one of the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World."



According to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Graham preached to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history – 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories, with hundreds of millions more viewing him on television, video, film and webcasts.

In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son to a luncheon in his honor. Graham initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggled with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, "We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you." So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist, who this month has been honored by *Time* magazine as the 'Man of the Century.'"

Graham then shared this story:

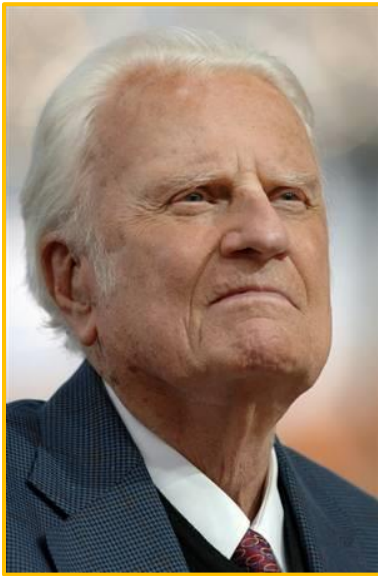
"Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

"The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'

"Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

(more)

“The conductor rushed back and said, ‘Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don’t worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don’t need a ticket. I’m sure you bought one.’



“Einstein looked at him and said, ‘Young man, I, too, know who I am. What I don’t know is where I’m going.’”

Having said that, Billy Graham continued, “See this suit I’m wearing? It’s a brand-new suit. My children and my grandchildren are telling me I’ve gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion.

“You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I’ll be buried. But when you hear I’m dead, I don’t want you to immediately remember the suit I’m wearing. I want you to remember this:

“I not only know who I am ... I also know where I’m going.”

Today, there is a celebration in heaven. Billy Graham has arrived. In another new suit – his heavenly garments.

The Apostle John had a vision of heaven:

After these things, I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter