

Escape Through a Cemetery

During World War II, when Hitler conquered France, he immediately shut down the borders to keep the people from leaving the country.

But one small border town saw its population diminish rapidly, so the Germans searched for the answer.

It is a fascinating story. This town had a cemetery that straddled the border with a neighboring country that was free from Nazi control. And so the locals opened an ancient gate in the wall of the cemetery, and they kept having “funerals” – except the people attending those funerals, allegedly mourning their loved ones, never came back. They went out to the tombs, but they just kept walking, right out the back gate, to their freedoms.



If death is our ultimate end, then there is no purpose to life except to maximize our own enjoyment for our very brief time on this planet. If death is our ultimate end, then we are born dying. But if we are children of God and children of the resurrection, then we know that death is not the end of us. It is the end of injustice and suffering and evil and pain, and the gateway to new life and freedom and the love of God. Thus, it is an occasion of great and lasting joy.

Speaking of joy, when Antonia (Toni) Larroux of Florida died, her adult children wrote a very funny obituary in her honor. They ended it with these words:

The memorial service will be led by Rev. Curt Moore of Orlando, Florida, a questionable choice for any spiritual event, but one the family felt would be appropriate due to the fact that every time Toni heard Curt preach, she prayed for Jesus to return at that very moment.

The obituary continued like this: *On a last but serious note, the woman who loved life and taught her children to “laugh at the days to come” is now safely in the arms of Jesus and dancing at the wedding feast of the Lamb. She will be missed as a mother, friend and grandmother. Anyone wearing black will not be admitted to the memorial. She is not dead. She is alive.*

(more)

And that is the ultimate message of Jesus to us. You are not dead. You are alive. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. God made you to be eternally alive. God's nature is to love you and provide you with abundant and eternal life, even when that life required God to take the penalty of death on our behalf through Jesus' death on the cross. God's final plan is to restore all creation back to His original plan, a world of justice, peace and wholeness.

As children of the resurrection, we have been born again into a living hope, the hope of eternal life spent with a God who loves us and made us to spend eternity with Him.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter