

# *No Better Hope than Heaven*

It's called "extreme embalming" – posing the deceased, not in a casket, but sitting or standing up, with the appropriate supports, of course.

It might be the body of an 18-year-old young man, slumped in an office chair with a PS4 controller in his hand, as if he were playing his favorite game, NBA2K – with his favorite snacks within reach.

Or it could be a boxer propped up at the far end of a makeshift ring, in his robe and gloves.

Or perhaps a Southern belle, sitting on a bench in designer clothes, with a feather boa, her hand cradling a champagne flute.

"Extreme embalming" prepares bodies for viewing in lifelike ways, like sitting at a table with a drink or driving a car. According to *Business Insider* – a business news website – it is not a new practice. It is particularly popular in Puerto Rico, and it has been growing in popularity.

"The idea is to honor the dead by showing them participating in an activity that they loved when they were alive, flanked by objects or a setting familiar to them," *Insider* said.

Other examples of "extreme embalming" have positioned the dead in superhero costumes, driving a car (with some mourners taking the time to sit beside the deceased), or simply sitting in a realistic fashion wearing their everyday clothes.

That's how their families wanted to remember them – frozen in fond memory.

When we lose a heavenly focus, it's natural to cling to the experiences of this life. We look back instead of forward. We choose denial of the reality of death over hope in the reality of heaven.

If, however, we believe in Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life, and trust Him to pay for the sin that condemns us to mortality, then we can look forward with confidence to something far better than a posed funeral service – to an eternity too wonderful to even imagine!

As the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Christians at Corinth: *But as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

And what Jesus said about spending eternity in heaven: *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