

What Epitaph to Write

In 1989, newspaper columnist Nick Clooney – brother of singer Rosemary Clooney and the father of actor George Clooney – decided he, like a modern-day Huck Finn, wanted someone else to do his work for a little while.

So, he invited a variety of local celebrities from the Kentucky-Ohio area to send in their ideas on a column about epitaphs. What would these famous men and women want to have written on their tombstones?

He was surprised by the wit and sincerity of the various responses.

Ira Joe Fisher, a weatherman, wrote a humorous couple of lines that went like this: “He wanted the mind of Plato, the heart and soul of Socrates. But his life was more of a tribute to Ol’ Mediocrities.”

Paul Knue, the editor of the *Cincinnati Post*, couldn’t make up his mind about what to write until after he and his family went away for a weekend trip. When he returned, Knue knew that he wanted an epitaph that reflected the importance of his family in his life. He chose as the epitaph two simple words: “He Cared.”

But the most sweetly whimsical message was from Charlie Mechem, former head of Taft Broadcasting. His epitaph read like this:

Dear God, thanks for letting me visit. I had a wonderful time.

Is that what you would like to say when you come to the end of your life? You can, you know. Give your life to Christ and look for people you can serve.

In doing so, you will find a secret to life very few people ever find. You will have found the true road to happiness. You’ll be able to say, like Charlie Mechem, “Dear God, thanks for letting me visit. I had a wonderful time.”

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed (or happy) is the man who take refuge in Him! (Psalm 34:8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

