Daily Devotion #139

**Our Final Moments**

*Revelation 21:1-4 (NASB) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”*

As I sat at the bedside of my dad yesterday morning as he was taking his final breaths, my heart was drawn to this passage of Scripture. If there is anything more comforting than these words, I can’t imagine what it would be.

As much as I know the truth about our eternal home and believe everything the Lord says to us about it, I realized once again my human frailties. I could not help but think about all my dad meant to me, and I didn’t want to say goodbye. Yet doing so was inevitable.

Because God is so faithful to His children, He gave to me such encouraging truth at the moment I really needed it. As I read the Scriptures, my mind was immediately taken to our heavenly home. As dad was just about to enter into that place, I was so overwhelmed by what and who is there. In the blink of an eye Dad was transported into the arms of His Savior and into the presence of all those believers who had gone before him.

I began to think about all the things in this life that distract us from what is really important. People are important. Their feelings are important. The way we view one another is important. I thought about all dad did while on earth to love people and accept people for who they were and where they were in life. His goal was always to show them Jesus and point them in His direction.

However, this was not dad’s natural heart. He had to be changed. Many years ago, he realized he needed that change. The change only Jesus can give. A new life, a new spirit. He was born again. And from that moment, He did everything in his power to serve Jesus.

The truth is, Jesus is the hero of my dad’s life. And as I was reminded of that, I felt the Lord teaching me that our energy and effort should be put first into Him and secondly into people. We were put on this earth to reflect His glory and to love people – to serve one another. In fact, the people dad had around him in his final moments were precious. They loved and served dad in a marvelous way.

I realized that when we come to the place of taking our last breath on this earth, our motive for all we do and be should be because of Jesus and because we need each other. Nothing else really matters. Oh, there are many things that have some importance, but none compare to the importance of people.

In our final days, whenever they will be, can I encourage us all to remember that how we have loved Jesus and how we have served one another is what is most critical? Let’s not let our final moments be anything but the conclusion of a life of love and dedication to Jesus and to others.