

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

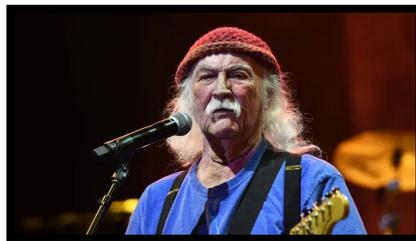
No. 133

March 2023

The Tweet Before He Died

Introduction

The headlines gripped my attention, “The day before he died, David Crosby tweeted, ‘Heaven is overrated . . . cloudy’”. It was alarming to me for on January 19, 2023, he learnt that Hell was underrated and those already there are clear minded. I wondered what were the characteristics of a person who would say such? I had never heard of the man before but as I read about him I found him to be the founding member of the rock groups, “Crosby, Stills and Nash” and “The birds”. He was described as a “wild man” and his favourite song was called “Rigby” by the Beatles, a song about bereavement and loneliness. It spoke volumes about his inward feelings despite all that he had for it was about a lonely individual. There is one line that is dreadful to think upon for it said, “no one was saved”. The following is a photograph of a man who, going by his last recorded tweet, is one who is under the fierce judgment of God.



Wither one reads the narrative of the rich man being in hell as a parable or reality is irrelevant. In this consideration what is revealed is, David’s body is dead but he is alive. He is very much alive but in a different sphere. He is conscious, is suffering emotional and mental grief, aware of those who are still alive. He knows he is in a place of no escape, no hope, and is unrepentant toward God for no one ever repents after death. His weeping is meaningless to God for his weeping is not the tears of repentance but of his wickedness being unveiled and punished.

What a difference to the death of my wife Jean. One night after a meeting when the saints were having a time of singing and fellowship, Jean said to me, “this is my favourite hymn”.

When we reach our peaceful dwelling on the strong, eternal hills,
And our praise to Him is swelling, who the vast creation fills—
When the path of prayer, and duty, and affliction, all are trod,
And we wake and see the beauty of our Saviour and our God:

Refrain:
*O 'twill be a glorious morrow to a dark and stormy day,
When we smile upon our sorrow, and the storms have passed away.*

With the light of resurrection, when our changed bodies glow,
And we gain the full perfection of the bliss begun below—
When the life the flesh obscureth in each radiant form shall shine,
And the joy that aye endureth flashes forth in beams divine.

Jean, being a young lady and possibly hearing the gospel for the first time, accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. From that point she had no doubts about going to heaven. For some 60 years she was a Christian lady and no one ever doubted the salvation of Jean Jennings.

What was the difference in these two persons?

- 1) A difference in life styles and beliefs.
 - a) There was a difference in what they believed. David scorned the truth of Heaven, he knew nothing of a living relationship with God, he lived in life without hope after death, he was afraid of death so he made light of the hereafter. He filled his life with drugs, sex and being a wild satanically driven man whose music and lifestyle was repulsive to God and he being a slave to Satan. He, without a doubt, took the name of God in vain and cursed without a thought. Jean by contrast believed God, her music was hymns which spoke of Heaven and God, Christ, Calvary and His love for her. She had no fear of death. She held the name and person of God in great reverence. Her life was one of moral cleanliness and she was a child of God.
 - b) David lived for time, its excitement of entertaining thousands, the delightfulness of living in great comfort.
 - c) One lived “amusing” and one lived “musing”. One was a child of the devil, the other a child of God. One was satanically deceived the other God enlightened, one lived for a 81 years seeking satisfaction the other found satisfaction in living for God and the glory of Christ. One is in Hell and the other in Heaven. One faces the eternal wrath of God the other the eternal bliss of God. The other in the moral glory described as “light and glory” the other in the “blackness of darkness”. What a difference in what they believed.

Why the difference?

- 1) There was no difference:
 - a) In the love the Lord had for both of them for it is not the will of God that any should perish and it is the will of God that all would be saved (1 Tim. 2:4).
 - b) In the fact they were both sinners, one may have been a clean living sinner and the other a deep dyed sinner, but the bottom line is both were sinners.
 - c) Both were under condemnation even if they had lived spotlessly pure lives. They still were under condemnation due to their birth. Since they both came from Adam and Eve they were born sinners and under the condemnation of God by birth, written over then both was, “Condemned already” (Jn. 3:18). One was not less or more condemned but as they lived they lived with the judgment of God hovering over each of them.
 - d) The way of salvation was fully open and available to both of them. One did not have an “in” with God and the other not; one did not have more sway with God than the other, the offer of God to both was an open genuine way of being rescued from the fury of God’s righteous judgment.
 - e) Neither of them could ever say, “There was no salvation provided for me” or blame God for not letting them have salvation.
- 2) There was a difference in decision making:
 - a) In life there came a point where a series of decisions had to be made:
 - i) Do I care what God’s diagnosis of my spiritual condition is?
 - ii) Do I want to live for “now” or “eternity”?
 - iii) Will I agree with God regarding His diagnosis of the spiritual condition?
 - iv) Will I accept the change in life, irrespective of personal fame or financial enrichment?
 - v) Will I accept Jesus Christ as my only, my personal Saviour, delivering me from the wrath of God?
 - b) One said “Yes” and the other said “No” and God accepted their decision. No one was forced into accepting salvation, it was a voluntary conscious action when at some place Jesus Christ became all they had for eternity.

- 3) There is a difference in where they are now and eternally:
- a) My Jean is in Heaven, but what is heaven like?
 - i) There are several passages which tell us of where Jean and every child of God who has died is now. What a glorious prospect they describe:
 1. It is a place of being comforted (Lk. 16:25); rest (Rev. 14:13); being present (at home) with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8); to be with Christ which is far better (Phil. 1:23); a place called “the third heaven” and “paradise” (2 Cor. 12:2, 4); a place of blessedness (Rev. 14:13) where he heard “unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter”, that is words which human words could never describe (2 Cor. 12:4).
 2. “Absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). The word is “present”, which means “to be at home”.
 3. It means to be amongst ones own people. (When in a foreign land and one hears an accent from their homeland, there is an immediate connection.) It does not say, “Absent from the body and presently (as in a future time) at home with the Lord.”
 4. “With Christ; which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). It is far better for: They will never again know grief, never again will be grieved by sin, nor will they ever again know the conflict of sin within.
 5. It is a place of rest from their labours (Rev. 14:13). In the mercy of God, we who are saved have entered into His rest (Heb. 4:3) and there remains yet an eternal rest (Rev. 14:13).
 6. In My Father’s house (Jn. 14:2). The Lord calls the Temple the place of prayer and communion for all nations. God brings His loved ones to a place of fellowship between all the people of God and God himself.
 7. In Paradise (2 Cor. 12:4). Visualize Eden with its colour, freshness, charity and rich fragrances. Could I possibly think that Heaven will be less beautiful?
 8. In Glory (Heb. 2:10). “For it became Him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory”.
 9. In Heaven (Heb. 9:24). “Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands . . . but into heaven itself”.
 10. In a place of endless life in its fulness. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10); “Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Tim. 4:8).
 11. In a place of perfect love. “God is love” and His perfections permeate Heaven (1 Jn. 4:8, 16).
 12. In a place of unfettered freedom of worship (Rev. 4:8, 10-11; 5:9-14; 7:10-12; 19:1-6).
 13. In a place of divine manifestation of the glory of the Lord (Jn. 17:24).
 14. Where they shall see God (Matt. 5:8).

Conclusion

David, if not saved is in the place of the blackness of hopelessness, all comforts of life gone, no friends to console or comfort, no luxury cars, homes or lifestyle but an awareness that there is no escape, no easement of pain and no hope of ever being liberated from this place of immeasurable fierceness of wrath.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

If you don’t wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.