

"Greeting Team"

For Sunday, October 30th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ 10:30 am for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

5TH SUNDAY! WE'RE ALL GREETERS!

- 1st— D. Mastbergen Thursday PM:
Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd— Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
- 4th— Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;
Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

*Are Committed To Multiplying—
While Numeric Growth Alone
Does Not Make
An Effective Small Group,
Failure To Grow Can Be A Sign
Of An Unhealthy Group*

Announcements

1. Great Bible Study Website?
—check out
www.studylight.org. Many great study tools!
2. Looking For A Great Read?—
I recommend
Songs Of Suffering
by Joni Eareckson Tada

What Happens After We Die?

That question has a certain anxiety attached to it, doesn't it? I'm convinced that even the most devout follower of Jesus Christ, approaches death with some anxiety. You can be secure in your faith & your relationship with Jesus! You can believe that you're going to spend eternity with Him; but, still have a certain fear because of the "unknown"! There's always some anxiety when we're forced into something new; what does it feel like to die? In part we fear death because it's beyond our control, isn't it? It's that image of the Grim Reaper lurking around the corner; stalking us; and, we never know "when" he's gonna show up, do we? John 14:1-6 begins with Jesus' words to His disciples: "*Let not your hearts be troubled...*"; and, He tells them why in v.6: "...because *I am the way, the truth & the life.*" If you've placed your trust in Jesus' atonement work on the cross then you don't have to fear death because Jesus IS your life! The fear of death can paralyze you; but, knowing you have eternal life in Christ sets you free from that fear! And, in that text, Jesus tells the disciples that they don't have to fear death because after they die, they get out of here! In Romans, chapter 8, the Apostle Paul says that "...we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now." And, not just creation at large, but, "...we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies" (vs.22-23). Every genuine child of God knows that groaning! That's why we love these words: "*I will come again,*" Jesus says in John 14:3, "*and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*" That's a great death benefit, isn't it? We get out of here! No more heartaches & betrayals; no more worries & anxieties! Jesus said: "*In this world you will have trouble.*" And, don't we know it? Jesus shared another benefit in v.2— after we die, we get a room in God's Big House! "*In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told that I go to prepare a place for you?*" God has a house! Not a hotel! Not an Inn; but, a big house! He's not going to run out of space; and, if you have life in Christ, there's a room reserved for you, with your name on it! We're not going to be guests in a lodge! We're His CHILDREN! We'll live in His house with Him! In v.3 Jesus said: "*I will take you to myself!*" That's the best part of death! We "inherit" Jesus!

We Don't Grieve Like An Unbeliever—

Jesus is the real "treasure" that we seek; and, we'll have Him — ALL of Him— when He takes us to Himself! In Paul's 1st letter to the Church of Thessalonica, he wrote: "*We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope*" (4:13). I have watched many friends & loved ones die; and, I grieve! But, not for them! I don't wish that they could come back to me! I would never wish that upon them! I would never wish for them to come back to this place! I grieve for ME! That I remain behind! While I suffer & mourn the temporary loss of their friendship, I rejoice for them! I'm jealous of them; and, I long for the day when we'll be reunited in a better place; but, NOT HERE! Oh, there's some tension there, isn't there— we still have Jesus' Kingdom work to do while we remain! But, we don't hold too tightly to anything here! Even so, come Lord Jesus!