

**Memorial Service for Dave Smith
4 June 2022
Freeburg Sportsman's Club
Freeburg, IL 62243 - 11:00 AM**

Good morning.

On behalf of Tim and Melinda Smith thank you for being here today. We have gathered here today to remember the life and times of Dave Smith and by our attendance to demonstrate our love and appreciation for Dave and his family.

Our Lord called Dave home on January 12, 2022, one month before his 67th birthday.

What may appear to be an untimely tragedy to us, is in fact God's perfect timing and we are confident that Dave is safely in the presence of his Savior and reunited with his father Lavern and Mother Doris who preceded him in death.

Honorable, trustworthy, dedicated, honest, dependable, these are but a few words to highlight Dave's character.

Most of you are aware of Dave's love of shooting and his marksmanship skills as well as his knowledge of guns and ballistics. While Dave's love of shooting was his passion it was not his priority. His priority was studying God's word and sharing it with others.

Dave's consistent intake of God's Word and his ability to discern the truth from the lie is a

testimony to his fidelity to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Dave is not dead. He has simply made a permanent change of station. He has no more need for an earthly body. He will in fact receive a glorified body at the exit resurrection.

Philippians 1:21: “For me, living is Christ and dying is profit.”

You may see loss in death of a loved one, but Paul the Apostle says there is profit.

Dave’s citizenship has been in heaven ever since he believed in Jesus Christ as his savior. That one simple act of faith gave him permanent status as a citizen of heaven.

Philippians 3:20: “For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly await the return of the savior. When he appears he will transform our lowly bodies into a body conformed to his image, according to the working by which he is able to subdue all things to himself.”

We may be in a bit of a fog because we cannot see clearly all things that await us in eternity, but I assure you, Dave is ecstatic because he is seeing and enjoying the things he has always believed.

II Corinthians 5:1-2: “For we know that if our earthly house, this body of weakness be destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed with our eternal tabernacle which is from heaven.”

His new body is age abiding and never will wear out like the old body of corruption

Hebrews 12:2: “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

I am confident he has received a hero's welcome home as he passed from time to eternity to be face to face with his Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

I cannot speak for our Lord, but I do not doubt that He received him with open arms and an Angelic Standing ovation with the words, “Well done my good and faithful servant”.

The purpose of this service is to give tribute to Dave's life but also to give honor and recognition to his Lord who shared him with us.

It was after all, Him who decreed his existence in eternity past. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who allowed him to grace our lives.

John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was

God. Vs.2: The same was in the beginning with God. Vs.3: All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made."

This is true for each of us. We are not an accident of some miss timed circumstance or event. There is a plan for you and a reason for your existence.

In order to understand this, you will need to go all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 1:26-27: "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. Vs.27: God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Maybe you have wondered why you are here. What is the meaning of your existence? Do you really count for anything or is it all just a mixed bag of suffering and blessings for the short time we exist?

Psalms 68:20: "He who is our God, is the God of salvation; and unto God, the Lord, belongs the issues from death."

Every individual is allotted a specific number of days during which he may choose for or against God's Plan. When this time runs out, physical death occurs.

Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment"

Ecclesiastics 12:7: "The body shall return to dust as it was, and the breath of life (soul and spirit) shall return to God who had given it."

Maybe you are frightened by death. Don't be! Satan will use the fear of death to intimidate you. For the believer in Christ, death is the dessert to a wonderful life. It is designed to be the sweetest part of living. On the other hand, death for the disadvantaged one, the unbeliever, is a sobering thought and one that must be dealt with.

The perfect Justice of God is always fair in the death of any person. Omnipresent and Omniscient God is a firsthand witness who knows all the facts. Therefore, the Lord has a right time and a right way to remove each of us.

Job.5:26: "Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of grain cometh in its season."

Our God called Dave at just the right time! Maybe not the time you would have preferred but at His right time!

Psalm 116:15: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly one (mature believers).”

If you could contact Dave this afternoon, what would you ask? Are you really in Heaven? What is heaven like? Do you know others who went before? Is there really a hell? What does God look like? Do you know what is going on here in your absence?

Here is what we do know for a fact!

Dave Smith is no longer in a body. He is no longer contained in a sin infected human residence. That body has been laid to rest, but he lives today.

II Corinthians 5:8: “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

To the unbeliever, physical death presents a whole different picture than it does to someone like Dave.

Death for the unbeliever is just a reminder that his time on earth is very short.

James 4:14: “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeared for a little time, then vanishes away.”

Death for the unbeliever is just a reminder of the futility of this world’s glory. All celebrity status or vast wealth is destroyed by death.

Mark 8:36-37: “For what shall it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

In other words, if you have not trusted in Jesus Christ, there is no hope beyond the grave.

You might not like that statement, but I warn you, do not take tomorrow for granted!

Hebrews 9:27: “It is destined for mankind to die once and after this, the act of judgment.”

There is a solution for you to consider.

Romans 8:1: “There is therefore now no judgment for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

The single greatest decision you could ever make is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I John 5:1: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

I John 5:13: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but eternal life.”

Acts 16:31: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved...”

Here is an amazing contrast. For the believer, dying grace allows the departing one to exit their physical body in a state of supreme happiness. No regrets, and great satisfaction in a job well done.

Facing eternity with confidence and anticipation of meeting the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. It is the ultimate way to depart this life!

I Corinthians 15:55: “Oh death where is thy victory? O’ Grave, where is thy sting?”

I Corinthians 15:57: “Thanks be to God, who gives us our victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This is how Dave left us! Smiling and anxious to get home to glory where his Lord awaited his arrival.

II Timothy 4:7: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

The Bible says, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21)

Our source of happiness and confidence is the Lord Jesus Christ. We may miss Dave with all our hearts, but it is only for a short while, then we also will join him.

Grief is normal and natural. Tears are OK; they express the worthiness of his life and the impact on each of us. But do not weep out of bitterness or self-pity but for joy. Life must go on and his memory will always be with us. You will have those fantastic memories of him and of the great times you enjoyed in his presence.

Let me ask you a question as we close, “If you were told that you only had four hours to live, what would you do? What would you think during your last hours on earth? Would you be occupied with Christ or obsessed with your failures? Would you be filled with regrets or be content?”

Remember, we face death alone. No one can walk across that bridge with us, so even though family may be close, doctors may be standing by, only what's in your soul can support you in those final moments.

Remember, you are never truly successful until you die well!

LET'S BOW OUR HEADS AS WE PRAY:

As we close this service, we know from your word “By grace are you saved through faith and that salvation is not of yourself it's a gift of God not of works lest any man should boast”. So, if you are here today and have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and you are thinking clearly right now, then you are considering the claims of Jesus Christ and you have a choice - do I believe it or do I not believe it because upon that choice hinges your eternal future. Think seriously in the privacy of your own soul. “For God so loved the world

that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Heavenly Father, we come to your throne of grace today, saddened by the death of a brother and friend. Yet we know from Your word that such sorrow is only experienced by those who are left behind. And so, we are encouraged by the knowledge that You rejoice in the death of Your saints and that Dave is happily in Your presence.

Thus, it is our prayer that Your grace will comfort those who now find themselves missing him. Shower upon them Your gracious mercies, which will bring tranquility to their troubled souls.

Such tranquility springs from biblical principles, which sustain, give strength, and provide the ability to endure. May the Holy Spirit empower each one to draw from this reservoir of confidence, enabling each to keep his eyes focused on the Source of all good and perfect gifts, our Lord Jesus Christ. Dave was indeed a good gift, now made perfect in Him.

There is no substitute for victory. There can be no victory without Christ, a victory that was won through His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross and made available to all through faith alone in Him.

Dave, Your child, is victorious. On January 12, 2022, You called him to enter into the realm of Your eternal glory about which we are confident and for which we are grateful.

And we lift our prayer in the name of Your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.