

"If God be for us,  
Who can be against us?"

(Rom 8:31)

## Realities & Actualities

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

"Lord, to whom shall we Go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
And we believe and are sure that  
You are that Christ, the Son  
of the living God"

(John 6:68-69)

# Let our SORROWS & CONSOLATIONS be with the Hope of Resurrection

*"O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?"* (1Cor 15:55)

*"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, **I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them.** Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, **when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live ...**"* (Eze 37:13-14).

*"For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living"* (Rom14:7-9).

*"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God"* (2Cor 1:3-4).

Life's situations are not **"with"** or **"without hope"** ... just the people in them:

As a **Prayer** without **Faith** is like a king without power...

**Faith** without **Hope** is like a check without signature or funds.

**We may not avoid the bodily death  
but we all can avoid the spiritual death of sin**

Every born shall see death, even Christ, praise be to His name, came to die. Anyone who loves the Lord is not afraid of death, but considers it an opportunity to meet with the Lord, to see the Lord and to enjoy being with the Lord forever, away from toil, illness, labor and afflictions.

Death is an inescapable evil, and sorrow is an integral part of every creature, more importantly when we lose a person dear to us. Crying is the natural and spontaneous reaction, but in hope and prayer, we lit candles for the uprightness of their spirits imploring mercy for them and solace for us. Christ, praise be to His name, the Lord of all life, and the victor over death by His own death, with whom everything is possible, cried; how could we, the weak, being heartbroken by the darts of the heavy loss of the beloved departed, not to cry? Yet our hope is in the Apostle Paul's saying: **"Would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others who have no hope"** because **"He/She that believes in me, even though he/she were dead, yet shall he/she forever lives"** and because the Lord said: **"For I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow"** (1Thes 4:13+John 11:25+Jer 31:13).

We have in our Lord Jesus Christ always ultimate comfort and exalted hope, especially in the time of our separation from our beloved departed, and we also have paradigm in our beloved Savior and physician: he wept in the spirit, and tears filled His eyes crying over the death of His friend Lazarus; although He is the Lord of Life and Death, He let go allowing his tears to downpour making His way to the grave of His friend to release him from the bondage of death and revive him from the darkness of sleep to the light and renewal of life. The same can happen to us if we believe that with Christ nothing is impossible if we surrender our finite hearts and lives, He will revive us with His life, purify us with His death and save us by his glorious Resurrection.

*"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope". **"For I have no pleasure in the death of him/her that dies, says the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live you"*** (Rom 15:4+Eze 18:32).

*"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ./ And whether we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which*

*is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings, which we also suffer; or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation"* (2Cor 1:5-7)

It said that a young lad died, and his parent, relatives and friends grieved so much that some have cursed God in manner not befitting with His sovereignty, will and wisdom. It is also said that the priest could not sleep that night as he failed to prepare a comforting sermon to suit the sad occasion, and he spent the night praying and reading the Bible. The last he read was: "***For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the same hour what you ought to say***" (Luk 12:12). He folded the Book being assured, and trusting in God and went to Church for the funeral ceremony before burial. While bearers were ushering the casket into church towards the altar, the priest heard the mother of the deceased wailing: "***I wish God gave me five minutes to ask my son to forgive me for failing him and to tell him how much I love him***". After the present settled down, the prayer service started. When it was time for the priest to say a word, he found himself saying these words: "***Dearly beloved, I can't describe your sorrow, and words are inadequate to honorably comfort you with, but I have a question for you today: "What would we do if God said to us: "I give you your beloved, in spite of my word "No one knows the day or the hour" (Mar 32:13) for 5, 10, 20, 40, 60 or 100 year, and I will come back on such and such a day and hour and take him/her back?"*** In other words, **you would know the day and the hour ahead of time**. My question: "***What would you do different than what you do now?"*** The wailing mother stood up and said: "***I would have made every hour and day in his life filled with love and happiness***". The Holy Spirit answered her by the mouth of the priest: "***Your sorrow and weeping are because you lost your son in the first place, and second, because you mainly failed to keep God's commandment for love and devotion to be the motive for your relationship with your son and the others***". In closing, the priest said: "***Everyone of us, young and old, will taste death in his/her predetermined minute of the hour, day and place, but we do not know when that day will come; in the meantime, we should live in love every hour of our day as if it is the last hour in order not to sorrow over what we fail to do to our beloved and fellow man/woman***"

***"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the Heaven... A time to be born and a time to die... A time to weep and a time to laugh... A time to mourn and a time to dance... A time to keep silence and a time to speak"*** (Ecc1 3:1-8)... "***Lord, you did now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For mine eyes have seen your salvation"*** (Luk 2:29=30)... "***Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it"*** (Ecc1 12:7).

***"A good name is better than a good ointment,  
And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth"*** (Ecc1 7:1).

**May our Lord soothe the hearts of the family/friends of the departed  
with the balsam of His solace.**

**May his/her memory be eternal!**