

Death? Bring it on!

by Paul E. Grant - April 2010

Published in www.GlobalMissiology.org Jan 2013

I welcome this transition
We commonly label “death”,
An immediate transformation
By the grace of the Spirit’s breath*

Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit
Combine to welcome me,
There I will stand in the merit
Of Jesus Christ of Calvary

Sudden death is sudden glory,
Instantaneous transfiguration!
Life as we know is transitory,
Heaven is my celebration

That is, a welcome just for me,
Face to face with Christ my Saviour!
Beautifully! Extraordinarily!
Eternity! Heaven! Hallelujah!

So death, where is your sting?¹
Where, O grave, is your victory?
Listen now to Bible boasting,
Death was conquered at Calvary!²

Our focus this side of dying
Should be one of preparation,
Engaging in edifying
Ourselves for service, post-resurrection

Life in Christ is a continuum
Heaven for us begins on earth,
Never should it be seen as a vacuum
It has an eternal worth

Death is the unique nano-second
Of transfer to Heaven’s glory,
Why should we fear when beckoned
To our eternal territory?

* “Our people die a good death” (John Wesley).

* “Death is hell and night and cold, if it is not transformed by our faith. But that is just what is so marvellous, that we can transform death”. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, London, November 1933).