

The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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Will Opal and I Know Each Other in Heaven?

In 1994, when Rex Turner, Sr., was 82 years old, he buried Opal, a devoted companion for 63 years, and he knows he will never be the same again. In 2000, When Hugo was 89 years old, he had to give up Lois, a devoted companion for 67 years, and he will never be the same again. Rex's words, "I miss her so very much," tell only a little about his and Hugo's lonely days and nights.

During Rex's 64 years of preaching he has brought comfort at funeral services to many bereaved people. He knows every verse in the Bible that describes heaven. And he knows that "what we shall be has not yet been made known" (1 John 3:2), but he would not be human if now he does not ask, "Will we know each other in heaven?"

Rex knows that his specific question is not directly answered in Scripture. However, indirectly the Holy Book leaves no doubt that Rex and Hugo will know Opal and Lois, along with "an uncountable multitude—from every nation and from every tribe, from all peoples and languages" (Revelation 7:9), though in different bodies: "If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:44).

Marriage ends with the

physical bodies (Luke 20:35), but Opal and Lois will still be Opal and Lois, as Jesus said about people of old: "I assure you that many will come from the east and west and sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).

Paul looked forward to the second coming of Christ, among other reasons, because he would again see "a large number of the devout Greeks" (Acts 17:4) whom he had brought to Christ on his second missionary journey (51-53 A.D.) in Thessalonica: "What is our hope or joy or crown of exaltation before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? You are our glory and joy" (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 17). The significance of Paul's words, with converts becoming crowns for Paul, appears based on the assumption that Paul would know who those converts were.

This significance means that those "devout Greeks," who, under Paul's preaching, had "turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God," and had obeyed "the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (2 Thessalonians 1:8), and were waiting "for his Son from heaven" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10), are now, since Paul's death in 68 A.D., his "crown of exaltation," his "glory and joy," even before the Lord's second coming.

On Sunday, July 27, 1975, Scott Little (Madill, OK) and Hugo and Lois worshiped with the congregation in Thessalonica (now called both Thessaloniki and Sa-

lonica), on the second floor of a downtown office building on the "Street of Philippi" (Hodus Philip-pou Ap. 49).

We were greeted with smiles from modern day dedicated Christians (Incidentally, as I started the sermon by an awkward reading to an audience of Greek-speaking listeners of the Greek of 1 Thessalonians chapter one, smiles of loving pity for the speaker were on every face.) Those friendly Christians we will not see again in this life, but someday we will see not only that small group, but also Paul and the "large number" who became Christians when Paul was preaching in Thessalonica.

In heaven Rex and Opal, Hugo and Lois, will get acquainted with people whom they did not know on the earth. Among them they will "sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).

Similarly, they will get acquainted with Moses in a different body than that which was buried in a valley in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 34:6). In a different body, 1500 years later on a mountain in Palestine, Moses appeared in person (Luke 9:30). Although Peter had never seen Moses, somehow he knew who he was (Luke 9:33).

Likewise, Elijah, 900 years after he left the earth, like Moses, appeared on the same mountain in Palestine. Peter, who had never seen Elijah, knew who he was (Luke 9:33).

Since angels cannot die (Luke

20:36), Michael the archangel, who talked to Daniel (Daniel 10:13; Jude 9), is distinct from all other angels, and consequently will be recognizable by name when Rex and Opal, Hugo and Lois, and “an uncountable multitude” (Revelation 7:9) of others are all in heaven together.

Likewise, Gabriel, who talked to Daniel (Daniel 8:16; 9:21) and to Mary (Luke 1:26-38), is distinct from Michael and from all the other angels, and so will be recognizable by name when Rex and Opal, Hugo and Lois, with the redeemed of every age, are all together in heaven (Hebrews 11:39-40). —Hugo McCord

Parental Influence

“Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Not too long ago, a member asked me to call a lady living across town. The lady’s granddaughter had swallowed gasoline and lay desperately ill in another state. In reconstructing how the three-year-old got the gasoline, the father remembered that he had siphoned some out of the car for the lawnmower. She had watched how he did it and it was thought that later she imitated his act.

As I left, I thought about parental influence and the consequences. Little eyes are watching what we do. Little ears are hearing what we say as parents. A risk that we take before them may prove fatal to them.

We would not endanger them in any way, yet we do it through carelessness. Tragically, mothers and fathers are often careless in their religious life and the children who follow them are the ones who will suffer most for it. If you knew that your child would follow your example, how would you be acting? —Allen Isbell

Surprising Facts About Cohabitation

Dr. John Van Epp, clinical counselor and author in a recent article commented on the negative experiences many young adults have had regarding marriage. These fears have led many couples to “live together” without marrying. This arrangement offers relationship without structure or commitment.

While some would suggest that such relationships would prove beneficial, the results have been just the opposite. Consider the following data:

Children 12-17 living with cohabitators compared to married parents are:

- Six times more likely to exhibit emotional and behavioral problems
- 122 percent more likely to be expelled from school
- 90 percent more likely to have a lower GPA

Rates of serious abuse are:

- Lowest in intact families
- Six times higher in stepfamilies
- 14 times higher in always single mother families
- 20 times higher in a biological cohabiting family and 33 times higher when mother is cohabiting with a boyfriend who is not the biological father.

In addition, couples who live together and later marry have a higher divorce rate than those who do not.

Via *Families*, August 28, 2014

Edited by Don Loftis

Adultery

It’s Like...

Do you often use metaphors to describe situations?

“I feel *like* a truck hit me.”

“My arms look *like* I have been giving a cat a bath.”

“He was happy *like* a dead pig in

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sunshine!”

“His hair looks *like* he had a fight with a weedeater-and it won!”

Adultery is Like

God uses some metaphors to describe adultery to help us see through the deception of Satan. Satan would tell us that through adultery one could find romance, excitement, happiness, and passion.

God wants us to see another side of adultery-the true story!

Adultery is like...

Wormwood—very bitter, the root of bitterness. Adultery causes bitterness in the hearts of children, spouses, extended family and friends. Proverbs 5:4

Two-edged sword—destructive. Adultery causes much pain and destruction! It cuts apart marriages, families, hearts and dreams.

Making plans to carry fire in your shirt and not get burned!

Can you imagine making such silly plans? That would be *like* someone thinking they would commit adultery and no one would get hurt! Proverbs 6:27-29

An ox being led to slaughter.

A criminal being led to execution.

A bird in a deadly snare. All three lose their life! Proverbs 7:22-24

A bird that abandons its nest of little ones.

To commit adultery is to abandon the commitment made to a family! Proverbs 27:8

Satan Says...

“Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” Proverbs 9:17

God Says...

“Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well.” Proverbs 5:15

Satan convinces many to drink stale, backwash, stolen waters!

That is what adultery is *like!*

—via Mt. Juliet Messenger