

David R. Dick Eulogy

08/31/2024

The reason I've always believed Dave cared so much is because he knew the Care Jesus has for him.

Richard Hilgert Eulogy

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March 25, 2023

Lucy, Chris & (Adrienne), Alyssa & Phil, Kevin & (Claire), Gabriella & (Anton), RJ, Jensen, and Russel - We share your hope in our Lord and His comfort in your grief. Thank you for the opportunity to share our love for Richard together. May the Lord bless and keep you.

If a Eulogy is a commendation of the character and services of a person, I believe someone like Rich would expect his Eulogy to include the evidence of Jesus's work in his life. There will rightly be much discussion about Rich and who he has been in our lives. But now, let's consider Who Jesus is in Rich's life and why it matters.

A Eulogy can be an occasion to testify, to examine, to consider and to challenge. See this person's life, look for the evidences of Christ's work in him, taste and see that the Lord is good, give an opportunity and reason to answer Father God's command to "Listen to and obey His Son" unto repentance and Salvation.

I'd like to tell you a bit about how I know Richard.

A close group of us gather for a couple of hours each Saturday morning to discuss life in the Word, and the Word's direction for our lives. The Holy Spirit always

provides something to unpack from the Word of God.

We want to be as the Bereans, those Jews who in **Acts 17:11** “...*received the Word (from the Apostle Paul) with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*”

What does God think about our lives? How do we order our lives in accord with His Word? How do we have His mind? What would Jesus do? These are the type of the things we’ve discussed together through the years.

We nurture a close trust and we share the details of our week as we’ve pondered and experienced God, where we’ve seen God leave behind His wake, and what’s on each man’s heart. We, with Rich, are Berean Brothers.

I want to report to you, to testify to what I’ve seen of Rich and the evidence of Jesus in his life.

I do this to give witness to Jesus, and to convey hope to you. I don’t speak about Rich in the past tense, but the present tense. Do you know why? It’s because our faith informs us that while Rich’s body has died, his eternal soul has not. It cannot. That is how God has made all of us - with a soul that is eternal.

Listen to the Apostle Paul’s assurance in **2 Cor 5:8** “*We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*” Our faith informs us that Rich’s soul, the eternal seat of his person, is now **with** Jesus because of his faith and trust **in** Jesus.

I’d like to share an example of another Jesus-filled person who faced death.

Our group recently discussed a 2nd century Church father named Polycarp. He was a disciple of the Apostle John, and the Bishop of the Church of Smyrna. Hunted down by Rome, his captors found him and he welcomed them inside to eat while he prayed, before being taken to die publicly and brutally in an arena. They entreated him to embrace Caesar as God and deny Jesus, to escape a horrible death so late in his life. Polycarp’s response is recorded as “*86 years have I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?*” With

that, they murdered him.

Christianity has scores of reports of how followers of Jesus have faced death. The deaths of hundreds of Christians throughout history are detailed in Foxe's Book of the Martyrs. While the courageous response of these Christians is remarkable, I believe the book is actually more about the evidence of their spectacular faith shown through their actions. We are not to marvel so much at the martyrs' courage, but in the manifold evidence of Jesus **in** them, the product of His Work being shown **through** them. The courage these people exercised was their unflappable trust in Jesus; it was God's gift.

So, why is faith so important, and what role should it play in our lives?

Our faith, which doesn't come from ourselves but is a gift from God, is not meant to be lived in a vacuum. **"...Faith without works (actions) is useless..." (James 2:20)**. Our actions are actually the product of the work of Jesus, Who is **"...the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb 12:2)**

We are called to cooperate in the faith He gives us and nurtures in us. So, let's consider the evidence of Jesus in Rich's life and ask how we could also Walk with the same Jesus - the Author, the Cultivator, the Protector of our faith.

Rich was a sinner, hopeless, but for the cleansing Blood of the Lamb. Up through the end of his time here with us, he continued to strive as **Col 3:9-10** says to **"...put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the new who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him"**.

What we witnessed was the response of Rich and his family in the face of a rapidly developing disease ending in his body's death. How a person faces death, and how those around him respond, can offer a window into the heart, for Jesus explained that **"...those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart..." (Matt 15:18)**

So, how did we see the effect of Rich's faith in Jesus?

Just a few short months ago, Rich arrived to breakfast with an oxygen tank and a new concern. This was the beginning of a rapid journey, and what we saw through it

was evidence of his faith in his Lord.

It began with the shocking diagnosis and what it might mean, and Rich quickly shifted to his response as he understood what may lay ahead in transplant recovery or death.

We saw his response as the disease progressed faster than we expected, and his openness to candid discussions about his circumstance and emotions.

We saw the love shared with his family as he found comfort and joy in their response, in their Walk with Jesus.

Now, Rich too had fears and anxiety. Towards the latter part of this journey, when I asked him how he was feeling emotionally, he told us that he was conscious that every breath was a task, and realized just how great the smallest graces from God actually are. I was later told that when faced with anxiety, Rich responded by singing hymns in Praise for comfort.

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

We finally saw his faith as he had peace even in the hours before he was taken to surgery. Rich responded to Jesus' care as he knew Him through the Bible and through his experience. Richard was assured of His Savior.

These responses point to another reason for our hope and faith.

We understand that faith must be informed and be based on truth, because faith in anything but God's truth is just folly; it's just wishful thinking. God's truth about Himself and His intentions towards us are reliable. And so, I encourage those belonging to Jesus to take heart. Richard, who we love, now experiences what we here currently hold among God's promises:

We can trust that Rich has joined the "***great cloud of witnesses***" in Heaven who surround us. (**Heb 12:1**) These witnesses are those who are forgiven in Jesus who

have gone before us, already waiting in fellowship together.

We know that “**...neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate (Rich) from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” (Rom 8:38-39). In both life and death, believers are comforted and received by Jesus, and nothing can separate us from Him. Likewise, **Rom 14:8** tells us “**...for if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.**”

Rich always seemed to strive to live according to the truth.

Rich also believed along with the Apostle Paul who wrote “**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**” (Phil 1:21), as well as “**...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**” (2 Tim 4:8)

Why did Rich have hope? What promise from Jesus would be a basis of his faith in Jesus?

Perhaps it was Jesus’ words in the Gospel of John: “**... “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.**” Jesus obviously didn’t mean that Rich’s body would not die, but that Rich’s soul would reside with Jesus, “**...not the lake of fire. This is the second death...**” (Rev 20:14)

The Bible reads “**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**” (Heb 11:1) This faith in Jesus that Saves us, the faith that the Apostle Paul wrote about, the faith believers like Rich enjoy, offers us a view into God and the spiritual realm that is very much present that we cannot see. Paul likened it to making out some of the details while peering into a dim mirror or glass.

In the presence of Jesus, now that these things are seen, Rich’s faith is fully realized as he sees Jesus face to Face. While here, Rich knew Jesus dimly, but now Rich knows Jesus fully, as Jesus has always known him. **(1 Cor 13:12)**

So how does our faith in the realities of Jesus help us when someone we love - who belongs to Jesus - has died?

Consider this: Is there Joy on Easter morning for the person who loves Jesus? Why? Is it not the joy of Jesus overcoming Death and living again?

Does the reason for that joy, His defeat of death, also offer believers reason for that same Joy? Shouldn't that Joy also be for those who belong to Jesus, who proceed us?

Our faith informs us that Richard, his eternal soul, is in the presence of our Lord even now. Jesus lives, and He has provided that Richard lives, with Him, as well. And in this, Jesus also comforts us.

Someone might be wondering: How does Jesus feel when someone He loves dies?

Do you know what I think is the shortest yet perhaps the most telling verse of the Bible? I believe it is **John 11:35**, "**Jesus wept.**" But what does this say about Jesus, and how does this assure us a measure of comfort?

Jesus arrived four days after His friend Lazarus had died. Lazarus' family and friends were greatly distressed not only in his death, but that Jesus had allowed it to happen. Lazarus' sisters had sent word to Jesus of his sickness, and upon His delayed arrival Martha even said to Him "**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**"

There was much sorrow everywhere, and Jesus felt the pain in their loss. He also felt the dismay of those He loved in that they knew He could have prevented it. But in obedience to Father's greater purpose, Jesus allowed Lazarus to die. The Bible tells us that when Lazarus' sisters sent word to Jesus, He said "**This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.**" (John 11:4). Jesus knew that His friend Lazarus would be revived, even only to die again, and then to meet Him again in Heaven, because Lazarus believed Jesus when He said "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:6)

Richard has believed as did Lazarus, and has now met Jesus face to Face. But Jesus

also understands the pain of death felt by those left behind. Jesus weeps with us, He comforts us, and He rejoices with those who believe Him. His Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is here among us even now.

You see, we have very, very good reason for our hope. (1 Pet 3:5)

Hope in forgiveness and rescue through Jesus; Hope in a Jesus Who understands and loves us; Hope in a genuine relationship with our living God; and yes, a defensible hope that our beloved Richard is with Jesus now, awaiting the rest of us who know Jesus.

Yes, we can have comfort in Jesus!

Do we believe God's Word, the Bible? Does our faith inform us we will see Rich again if we personally know Jesus? Do you have faith that informs you that you personally know Jesus? That His Comfort is here for us even now?

Are you a believer, a follower of Christ? Be encouraged, be comforted. Are you not? Hear His offer of forgiveness, believe, and join us, join Richard, be joined to Jesus.

Kid's Church

Socrates: "I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think."

PRAYER: I thank you Father, we all thank you, for Richard in our lives, and Yours in his. We thank you that our faith assures us he has been gathered up to you, Jesus. We praise You Jesus for the manifold and tangible evidence of Your Work in Richard's life. We praise you for the impact You've made on Richard, and in turn made on us. We worship You for Your incredibly kind offer to belong to You. Please Lord, have mercy and bring us all to heed Your Call to put our faith in Jesus.

Cheryl King Funeral

08/31/2024

If you knew her, you certainly experienced grace from Cheryl, that echo of God. If you think her huge displays of grace were wonderful, then consider the magnanimous Grace of God in His offer of forgiveness. All you need to do is ask.

David Cranor, Graveside Funeral

08/31/2024

9/21/20

God is Good

Psalm 27.13-14

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed

That I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart;

Wait, I say, on the Lord!

God is our Protector

Isaiah 41.10

Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,

Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

God is our Provider

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Assurance of the Resurrection

2 Corinthians Chapter 5, Verses 1 - 8

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is 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 habitation which is from heaven, if

indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Burial Rite

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Your Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech You, to Your whole Church in paradise and on earth, Your light and Your peace.

Amen.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection. Amen.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that Your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

Grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve You with a quiet

mind. Amen.

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in Your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Amen.

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Amen.

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. Amen.

Grant us grace to entrust David to Your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of Your mercy, and remember him according to the favor which You pour out to Your people. Amen.

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of You, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in Your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with David and all Your saints, to receive the crown of life which You

promise to all who share in the victory of Your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please, All Stand to Pray

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother David; and we commit his body to the ground; Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make His face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up His countenance upon him and give him peace. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be Your Name,

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Lefty Bogolia Eulogy

08/31/2024

There are many of us here who belong to Jesus, and who are friends of Lefty. We have seen him in action, and we know something of his character. Preparing to speak to you, I polled some of our mutual friends and asked “What are the core things about Lefty that strike you?”

Kathleen Cook Funeral

08/31/2024

I have known Kathleen for several years as a minister at Colonial Nursing Home in Crown Point. Some of the family I met at the home as they visited with her, and most everyone else last year at her 90th birthday party.

Kent Eloie Eulogy

08/31/2024

The shadows had been long, and it was brisk, cold. “Mike! Mike!” he whispered as we sat in the deer blind. A beautiful mulie buck had topped the crest of the hill between the draws, and he was on the move in our direction as he crossed the hay field. My friend had brought me to hallowed ground

Arthur R. Spoerhase Funeral

08/31/2024

I have known Rick for almost two years now. The members of our ministry team visit the Colonial Nursing Home residents several times a month, and Rick and I came to know each other along the way.

Albert A. Scheffer

08/31/2024

Life is indeed fragile, and we are but mere men. However, we are also personalities, most precious and special – the result of a lifetime of experience and growth. Al was no different than any of us in that way, but he was surely a unique soul.

Nick Scheffer Funeral

08/31/2024

My observation has been that Aunt Claire and Uncle Nick loved each other, sacrificing themselves for each other. I have heard and seen Aunt Claire's devotion to Uncle Nick, even if he was having a bad time of it and wasn't always so loveable. Claire remained devoted to him.

Frank Tomlin Eulogy

08/31/2024

All of us have the opportunity to settle our debt now by accepting Jesus for Who he says He is, else we will face Hell as payment. Beware! Any other route to Heaven is a lie. The wonderful news is that Jesus' offer is simple, it's free, and it's guaranteed.