

Sad News, Good News

Commentary for January 1, 2009 — Loss of a Friend, a New Bible

Sad News

ASK lost a good friend on December 25, 2008 with the death of Daniel Keith Julien. I only met Dan once in person and he reiterated what I thought to be the case, that he understood the truths of Scripture regarding the facts that his redeemer was resurrected and lives, and that redemption would be universal for all (1 Corinthians 15:20–22).

Dan looked forward to the resurrection of the body. In that resurrection — for Dan and for everyone else who has died and will die — the next conscious thought will be a consciousness of rising in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). That will occur at Christ's return to this earth and not before. Until then, Dan and everyone else will remain dead (and not alive in another state of being). Only Christ has immortality and only Christ has been resurrected from the dead to spiritual life (1 Timothy 6:16). Our hope is in Christ (1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:13). He is our hope of glory (Colossians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:3), which we learned through the gospel:

"... our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

• 2 Timothy 1:10

Dan Julien believed that gospel. Look to his future and our future in a favorite passage:

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we [believers still alive] shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?'"

• 1 Corinthians 15:52–55

The trauma, pain, suffering, and terror of approaching death which most all mankind endures (and which you and I will likely endure when we die) is necessary because we are from Adam and God requires that every human being endure the same experience of death. God considers death to be **"the last enemy"** (1 Corinthians 15:20–25, particularly verse 26). God's own Son gave Himself to endure horrible suffering and death.

For Dan Julien that last enemy has been defeated. Death will never again have any power or threat of power over him. This should be a comfort to his family and friends who are wise enough to understand. Dan is dead, as are all others since Adam, but Christ Jesus has been resurrected from the dead. Those who are alive can look forward to seeing Dan, either for the first time or to be reacquainted with him, when we are resurrected together from the dead.

Soon after the ASK website began, Dan asked Dr. Ernest Martin if he could host a community forum for readers who appreciate ASK material and who wish to communicate with each other. The current version of that Forum is called "[A Community Forum: A discussion forum for those dedicated to the Gospel message of the Reconciliation of ALL THINGS \(Philippians 2:9-11\)](#)."

This was Dan's ongoing gift to the people of ASK and Dan continued hosting the Forum except for a short period of time when his graduate school workload became too much to handle the

responsibilities of the Forum.¹ Dan was most gracious with the time he gave to the Forum and we are thankful for his gracious support of ASK over the years.

Dan is now safe in God's rest, unaware, not alive, sleeping (to use the biblical metaphor of death, Psalm 13:3 and John 11:11–14), awaiting the fulfillment of God's promise given when Dan received God's Holy Spirit. In the meantime, let the words of Paul comfort Dan's loved ones and friends:

"And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ... Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

• *Philippians 4:7–9*

Good News

The good news is that the first English Bible in the original manuscript order has been published. Information about that Bible and my review of it is the subject of the "[January 2009 Newsletter](#)" and the Article "Review of *The Holy Bible in the Original Order*." Read both for maximum information. This remarkable project has been ongoing, quietly, for a number of years under the leadership of Fred Coulter, a friend of Dr. Ernest Martin.² It is our expectation that this Bible, like all Bibles, will fulfill the purpose God has for it, particularly due to the correct organizational structure of the biblical books:

"So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

• *Isaiah 55:11*

God will bless His word. There is a passage in the book of Hebrews where we usually key on the latter part of the passage and pass over the first part:

"For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful [active]

and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

• *Hebrews 4:12*

We often forget how dynamic the Word of God is. This is because in our everyday lives we cannot see God's word in action. The word of God deals in the realm of soul and spirit, judging and changing the sentiments and thoughts of our heart and mind. When God desires to move the world and make changes in the world, He does it by His Word. He speaks and it is done. He gives us a preview of His thoughts in the written word of God, the Holy Scriptures and He also uses them to move the world. They contain words that were originally spoken either by God Himself, by His representatives, or even by His enemies to provide content, context, and contrast to God's Word and the words of His agents expressed in the Bible.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

• *2 Thessalonians 3:1*

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1. Presently, the discussions on the Forum range beyond its title topic and are not limited to topics covered by ASK. The topics reflect the personal opinions and information of those making comments.
 2. A different project and translation in the "correct manuscript order" is in process, to be published some years from now. Indeed, all Bibles should be published in the correct order.