

Finally Home

In all the years I've been writing I have never had to type words more difficult, more devastating than these: Yesterday the Lord called my son to himself—my dear son, my sweet son, my kind son, my godly son, my only son.

- Tim Challies

Human beings, of all creatures in the world, have this awareness that we will cease to be. But we often live in denial of that fact. And even when we can bring ourselves to admit that death is real, we tend to live as if it's far off; it's something we can think about some day but certainly not this day.

But reality somehow has its way of forcing a reckoning. A funeral is one of those times. It's a stark reminder that death is real. That eventually death comes to each one of us. And that's especially true when the funeral is for a young man.

So we can't help but wonder if Nick's final gift to each one of us is simply confronting us one more time with the reality that we prefer to avoid. A reality that poses us with the question, "Am I ready?"



1. Death brings us from vulnerability to unshakable security.

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(1) For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not made by human hands.*





## Micah 4

*(1) In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established...and peoples will stream to it. (2) Many nations will come...Nation will not take up sword against nation*

## Micah 4

*(4) Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree, and no one will  
make them afraid,*

## Isaiah 25

*(8) The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces;*

*2. Death makes possible the fulfillment of God's ultimate purpose for us.*

## 2 Corinthians

*(5) Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God,*

## 2 Corinthians

*(5) Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, **who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.***

## 1 Corinthians 15

*(19) If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*



## 2 Corinthians 5

*(6) Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.*

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) We would...prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

We are confident he has not been sent away,  
but merely sent on ahead. We know there  
will be grueling days and sleepless nights  
ahead. But for now, even though our minds  
are bewildered and our hearts are broken,  
our hope is fixed and our faith is holding.  
Our son is home.

- Tim Challies

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) at home with the Lord.*

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) We would...prefer to be away from the body and at home **with the Lord.***

## Matthew 17

*(4) Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”*

## Hebrews 11

*(22) But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, (23) to the church*

## Hebrews 11

*of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood...*



## Luke 22

*(42) “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

## Luke 22

*(43) “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) We would...prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

## Hebrews 13

*(5) I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

All you need to know about death is that during the biggest transition of your life, you will be with the most loving person in the universe.

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) We would...prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

# Philippians 1

*(21) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Help me, O Lord, my strength and rock;  
Lo, at the door, I hear death's knock.

Lo! Satan strains to snatch his prey;  
I feel his grasp; must I give way?



He harms me not, I fear no loss.  
For here I lie, beneath thy cross.

My God! My Lord! Healed by Thy hand.  
Upon the earth, once more I stand.

# Philippians 1

*(21) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*

## Romans 7

*(24) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? (25) Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

## 2 Corinthians 5

*(8) We would...prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

What could be better than to live forever with  
God whose LOVE is infinitely tender, whose  
BEAUTY is infinitely satisfying, and whose  
ARMS are infinitely safe.