

The Hope of Glory

I love Doc Martin! One of my favourite lines, portrayed so brilliantly by Martin Clunes was when a little girl in his surgery asked, "Am I going to die?" His reply was, "Yes, everybody dies...but not today!" Sadly at this time, our thoughts turn to the loss of life around us and our own mortality.

It's going to happen to us all yet it's a subject we can find so hard and I think there are two reasons for this. Firstly for those of us who love life so much, we do not want it to end... it's like a brilliant holiday, we just wish it could go on for ever. And leaving loved ones is hard, but then Jesus knew that God was in complete control but he still wept over the death of Lazarus so it's ok to be sad. Secondly we find it hard to think about and look forward to something ahead of us that we cannot imagine. So many writers and artists have attempted to portray their idea of heaven but pearly gates and the vivid imagery of Revelation are not something that we can see ourselves fitting into.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2, verse 9, "No mere man has ever seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord!" So yes, it's ok to love life and weep when we are parted from loved ones but remember that we are very precious to God, and as he loves us so much he cares for us and protects us, but will one day take us to Himself at a time that only He knows. Whilst we await that time we can experience a little of Heaven as we allow Him to live alongside and within us. Paul goes on to say that if we do this His spirit will live in us and this is the beginnings of heaven on Earth for us.

So we come back to that intangible mystery whereby if we live by faith, we feel peace when all around is stormy, and we have hope within us when the world feels that everything is hopeless. This is what we call Christian Hope- Christ in our hearts and the knowledge that there is life beyond this earthly existence-a life that will be glorious beyond all imagining.