

Eulogy for H. A. W. 03/08/2010

* Dear members of the Williams' family and friends, in this funeral service we gather on the occasion of the loss of a beloved husband, good father, kind grandpa and reliable friend, H. W. And as much as it has pleased the Heavenly Father in His good providence to call his child H. from the present life to the life to come, let us hear the admonishing and comforting words of Jesus Christ addressing for us today.

* *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, (Joh 6:37-40).*

* Friends, recently I realized that today I cannot work as hard as five years ago. This fact gives me a sense that I am getting older; In connection with the new experience of aging, I also realized the destructive power of death working in my bones. After all, do you think death frightens me? Or does it frighten you as soon as you feel the pain of the loss of your loved one, the husband, father, grandpa and friend, H.?

* Now we are leaving this rhetorical question without answer because in the first place we need to hear the words of comfort and consolation. In addition to that, we might want to say the word. With this sense in mind, we pray. O holy and righteous God, it has pleased You to call H. by temporal death. Let us learn from this death that we, too, must die and leave this world. But don't leave us without faith and hope in Christ Jesus who is the Guarantor of our salvation. Do not forsake us, and do not withdraw Your hand from us, but give us the abundant experience of Your goodness, grace, love, and help, until You will grant us also a happy and blessed end. Hear us for Your mercy's sake. Amen

* After this prayer we receive the Word of truth, *Thus says the Lord, Dust you are, and unto dust you will return. By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Friends the shocking truth is that there is none of us who would be qualified for the salvation, poor or wealthy, known or unknown, ordinary or prominent, bad or good, none of them! We are all sinners and we must die. Yesterday many church people heard the message from Luke's gospel, teaching us unless people repent, they will all perish, like the eighteen Jews on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, (Luk 13:4,5).* Significantly, here Jesus speaks regarding everlasting death, not about the death of our physical bodies. It is necessary for a man to repent, says the Word.

* Thinking of H.'s last visit to St. Luke's, I didn't realize that I would not see him again. Death always comes unpredictably. You may expect it soon but never exactly. This lesson teaches us that each day of our life may

be the last day; therefore we need to be prepared to stand before the Son of Man, (Luk 21:36). If you ask me, was H. prepared to stand before the throne of God Almighty?, then, I would say, Yes, I believe he was. H. may be distinguished from other men by his obedience. Whenever I asked him, *H., take step forward; or sit here; or hold my hand;* in response I heard, "Yes sir." I am sure, he was a very good soldier during World War II; and why not Christian? During his last ten years, H. had attended church on a regular basis. And on his last visit to the church, three weeks ago, he received the absolution, Holy Communion, and benediction. Friends, from this I concluded, H. was prepared to stand before the Lord!

* In connection with this state of affair, H. and we as well should thank E. W. for H.'s diligent preparatory. I tell you, to have such a woman as a wife was a great blessing for H. and for his children as well. If you count H.'s achievements during his 96 years long life, you might know that he was a good father who tended to the needs of the family. But when he became sick, Edna cared for him. This gentleman was a loyal employee of Prudential Insurance Company where he worked for many years, retiring in 1977. He liked God's creative world, trying to be creative as well. He planted hundreds of trees, especially evergreens, like pine trees, all kinds. I imagine H. in Paradise working as a planter of the beautiful- beautiful pine trees. There are many other positive things at the record of H.'s life in the Book of Life. Of course, he was a sinner as we are, but he was a repentant sinner; his faith and deeds are better witness than all my words on his behalf.

* Dear friends, in conclusion I ask you to join me in prayer behalf of our brother in Christ, H., saying to him our best. Let us pray, O holy and righteous God, refresh the soul that has departed with heavenly consolation and joy, and fulfill unto it all the gracious promises, which in Your holy Word You made to those who believe in You. Grant to H.'s body a soft and quiet rest in the earth until the Last Day, when You will reunite H.'s body and soul and lead him into the glory of the sons and daughters of the everlasting God and Father our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen