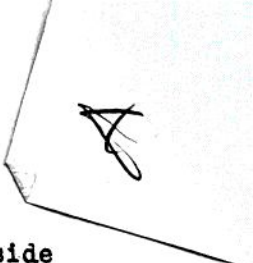


July

7  
Mark 5:39

Friday



Not Dead but Asleep.

*A simile*

To every human being there comes ~~the sad occasion~~ when he stands beside the coffin of one ~~of those who are most~~ dear to him and knows that the body before him will never again speak and respond to his affection. It is a terrible moment, particularly for those who do not know the Word of God.

~~Human philosophy and mere intellectual speculation can bring no answer but that death is the end.~~ <sup>this</sup> All the clever plans and schemes of life, all the <sup>its</sup> joys and sorrows, all <sup>its</sup> the hopes and fears, end in darkness and silence, if human knowledge is the only place where we can seek an answer to the problem of death.

The Bible, however, being God's Word, gives us truth that we could not possibly gain in any other way, and <sup>It</sup> God tells us that ~~what seems to us to be death, the end of the functioning of the human body, is merely a cessation of consciousness in this world.~~ <sup>is not the end at all. It is merely a pause in</sup> It is similar to the experience of sleep which <sup>comes after</sup> we have so many times in the course of our lives. It is <sup>merely</sup> simply a change in a mode of existence. To the wicked it means a change from a life of mingled joy and sorrow; to an experience of <sup>unalloyed</sup> pure torment. To the righteous, it means <sup>the end</sup> a change from a situation in which joy is mixed with the misery of <sup>that is common to</sup> this life, <sup>and</sup> ~~to one of bliss and happiness.~~ <sup>the beginning of eternal bliss and happiness.</sup> It is a change of situation. ~~It is similar to sleep.~~ It is not death or cessation.

Of course, death is not like sleep in the sense that it <sup>means loss of</sup> is a doing away with consciousness. <sup>A</sup> ~~As a matter of fact, very few people are entirely unconscious when they are asleep. All sorts of dreams and fantasies flit through their minds. Our sleep is only a comparative cessation of consciousness. In the intermediate state the departed have lost many of the means of acquiring knowledge for their senses which they have here but doubtless receive new acquisitions. It is like sleep in that the body has ceased to function in its normal way. It is like sleep in that it is an intermediate mode of existence. It is like sleep in that there is to be an awakening from it, an awakening into even greater joy at the resurrection of the dead.~~