

Eulogy & Address

We are here today to give thanks for the life of Andrew Anthony.

My dad had a very charming way about him that never failed to win people over as friends. He was very witty and intelligent, and right to the end of his life he kept himself up to speed with the latest technology and gadgets. I remember that it was my dad that got me through fractions, and he could always see how everything slotted together in my *Advanced Meccano* set. Andrew graduated in the 60's as an *Electronics & Telecommunications Engineer* with a promising future ahead of him, but of course life took a turn for the worse when Dad contracted Multiple Sclerosis.

Someone once said "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." (Jimmy Dean Moore) Well that is most certainly the case with my dad, as he demonstrated perseverance and determination to keep going against all odds.

Keeping in mind his severe physical condition, and using my mum's own words "from the very beginning of our relationship Andrew was a rock, strong and supportive through thick and thin". The 3 most defining characteristics that I think kept my dad going were as follows:

1. **LOVE:** He was a man that loved his wife.
2. **PERSEVERANCE:** He was a man that would not give up easily.
3. **FAITH:** He was a man that believed in God.

I have distant memories of my dad talking about God, and even in recent history he would ask to not be interrupted as he was praying. Although he was not a practicing "churchgoer", he certainly believed in God behind the scenes, and most important of all – God understood my dad best and knew what was on his heart.

As it says in Psalm 139, "*...I know everything about you...I am familiar with all of your ways.*"

Address:

I read a story about an elderly woman that was near death. She loved the Lord and longed to be with Him. The nurse told her family that Doris would probably hold on until she could see her daughter, who was on her way to say goodbye. The nurse said, "It's as if Doris has one foot here and the other in heaven. She wants to take that last step soon."

That reminds me of this following beautiful description of dying by Henry van Dyke:

"I am standing at the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud, just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. . . . And just at the moment when someone at my side says: 'There, she is gone!' there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: 'Here she comes!' And that is dying."

Even more comforting for the loved ones of a believer who dies, are the words of the apostle Paul: "If our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, it is eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). We can rejoice in our sorrow knowing our departed loved ones that have loved the Lord are now present with the Lord (v.8).

The death of people whom we love brings sorrow and deep pain - but if our loved ones know the Lord Jesus Christ then our loss becomes their gain.

A man decided to make all the necessary arrangements for the day of his funeral. He picked out a burial plot and chose the inscription he wanted carved on his headstone. A minister, who knew him well, heard that he was busily preparing for the inevitable day. So he went to the man and said, "I understand that you've done everything you can possibly do to provide a resting place for your body. Have you given any thought to a resting place for your soul?"

The man was stunned by the question, for it was true that he hadn't thought about getting ready for the life to come. After listening to the minister explain the good news of where indeed his soul could rest, he placed his trust in Christ for eternal salvation and found assurance of eternal life and rest.

This is the most powerful message that exists for humankind that our Holy Creator God loves us despite the wickedness of our sins. It is for this very reason of love that 2000 years ago, He sent his One and only Son, Jesus Christ to come into our world in our shoes to be the only person to live a sinless and perfect life, to then die a cruel painful death on a cross to take the punishment that we all deserve for breaking His laws, so that if we put our trust in the sufficiency of what Jesus did for us and do two things we can be forgiven and one day enter Heaven.

1st... Be willing to turn away from anything that we know is wrong in our life and say sorry to Jesus. God promises to help us with the things that we are powerless to give up, if we allow Him.

2nd... We must surrender our life to Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as God, and then humble our lives to Him each day.

If we do these two things, one day when we die we will go before God on judgement day, and God will say to you, "My beautiful son or daughter, you have accepted my free gift of

forgiveness through the death of my only perfect Son, Jesus Christ. So, welcome to Heaven!"

Wise is the person who makes that all-important preparation, because everybody will spend eternity somewhere.

Those who believe on Christ will enter the kingdom prepared for all who love Him; those who reject Christ will go into the everlasting fire (Matthew 25:34,41).

No one knows when death will come. But we can be ready. The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Nothing you do on earth is more important than making sure you are ready to go.

O to be ready when death shall come!
O to be ready to hasten Home!
And sweetly, gently, to pass away
From earth's dim twilight and into day.

Only those who are ready to die are ready to live.

**Is there any reason why you shouldn't turn and surrender right now?
Would you like to turn and surrender right now?**

This was all first explained to me several years ago, and on 3rd May 1990 I prayed a prayer that changed my life and secured my eternal destiny. I simply said a prayer like this, and if you like you can say this prayer with me in your heart:

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for me. I am sorry for all the things I have done wrong. Please forgive me and help me to turn away from everything I know to be wrong. I want to put my faith in you and surrender my life to you. Help me to start living life your way every day. I pray in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you said that prayer in your heart and meant it, then you can remember that you have made the biggest and most important step in your life. Remember that your salvation does not depend upon how good you can be – it does, however depend on how perfect God is.

We are here today to give thanks for the life of Andrew Anthony.

He was my dad, and I sure wish that I had the chance to get to know him better – but I would like to remember him in the light of the 3 things that characterized his life that of:

LOVE PERSEVERANCE FAITH

How would you like to be remembered?