



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for October 3, 2021*

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### **Remembering a Friend**

Last week a school friend reminded me of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic death of one of our classmates. That evening I was reading a book of reflections by Charles Spurgeon, and his message about *LIFE* stuck me. Though his words may seem harsh, the message is clearly one of hope for any who mourn. In no way does Rev. Spurgeon denigrate our grief or disparage the lives of those who have died. *This message is for us, the living.* Here is the entire reflection from Morning and Evening by Rev. Charles Spurgeon, English Particular Baptist preacher (1834-1892):

### **“September 30, Evening”**

*“But whoever is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.”  
(Ecclesiastes 9:4)*

“Life is a precious thing. In its humblest form, it is superior to death. The truth is especially certain regarding spiritual things. It is better to be the least in the kingdom of heaven than to be the greatest outside of it. The lowest degree of grace is superior to the noblest development of the unregenerate nature. When the Holy Spirit implants divine life in the soul, it is a precious deposit, which none of the refinements of education can equal. The thief on the cross excels Caesar on his throne; Lazarus among the dogs (see Luke 16:19-31) is better than Cicero among the senators; and the most uneducated Christian is, in the sight of God, superior to Plato.

“Life is the badge of nobility in the realm of spiritual things. Those without it are only coarser or finer specimens of the same lifeless material, needing to be made alive, for they are *“dead in trespasses and sins”* (Eph. 2:1). A living, loving, gospel sermon, however unlearned in matter and unpolished in style, is better than the finest discourse devoid of anointing and power. A living dog keeps better watch than a dead lion and is of more service to his master. Similarly, the poorest spiritual preacher is infinitely to be preferred to the exquisite orator who has no wisdom but that of words, no energy but that of sound. The same holds true of our prayers and other religious exercises. If we are quickened in them by the Holy Spirit, they are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, even though we may think that they are worthless. In contrast, our ‘grand performances,’ in which our hearts are absent, are – like dead lions – as decaying flesh in the sight of the living God.

“Oh, we need living groans, living sighs, living despondency, rather than lifeless songs and dead calm. Anything is better than death. The snarls of the dog of hell will at least keep us awake. Yet what greater curse can a person have than dead faith? Quicken us, quicken us, O Lord!”

**Please offer prayers for . . .** those who mourn our classmate and those he left behind and all who mourn; those suffering from severe weather, from wildfires, and those with COVID; Wanda, Jerry, Pete.

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