



From Our Pastor...

Going home at the end of the day has always been a comforting thought for most workers. If you spent the day in the mine, coming again to the surface and traveling to a familiar table was a time for joy, for you survived another day. For soldiers, to return home meant that you made it through the swirl of death to return to welcome and rest from the chaos. To stand at the door and know that there were cookies inside and hot chocolate meant that you could stop worrying about bullies, tests, and not knowing the answer. Going home is a positive image for most people.

For some, however, it is filled with fear and anxiety. For some, it is filled with loathing and avoidance. Going home can mean entering the turmoil of rejection, abuse, and violence. Maybe going home is not a place of safety from the violence of the world, but the epicenter of the violence.

So when we talk of going home to the kingdom God has prepared, or being at home among God's people in worship, it might be received with a variety of emotions. God's people have looked forward to going home, to be joyful at the banquet table of the

Lord. Jesus reassured that "in my father's home there are many rooms, and I will prepare a place for you." This going home is different from all our going-homes of the present or the past. It goes beyond experience. It surpasses the positive or erases the loathing of our personal experience.

At peace, affirmed, and as one with joy, is to be home with the one who created us. Our eternal hope is to exchange this world's comfort and peace for "peace beyond understanding." We are reassured by God's word that going home to the kingdom is to leave the torment of this world and experience the goodness that God intended from the beginning.

Our message to the world is a message of encouragement. Living as Jesus' brothers and sisters, we expend our lives bringing justice, harmony, and relief to those whose lives are wrapped in torment. Our witness is the proclamation of resurrection to the fullness of God, going home that is the fulfillment of all we have ever dreamed of – hoped for.

There is no better moment than now to witness to this promise of God. To witness to those who come home rejoicing, and to be messengers of reassurance to those who would rather be anywhere but home, is our call.

Therefore share the Gospel with all who need to hear.

Pastor Dave