

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Epitaph

"If men could see the epitaphs their friends write they would believe they had gotten into the wrong grave." – American Proverb

Here is an interesting challenge: For what do you want to be remembered?

A number of years ago it was popular for one who died to have an epitaph. This often was placed on the grave stone. Here are a few that are actual epitaphs:

On a grave stone in England:  
Sir John Strange  
Here lies an honest lawyer,  
And that is strange.

Some were actually intentionally humorous:  
On a gravestone in Uniontown, Pennsylvania...  
Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake,  
Stepped on the gas Instead of the brake

In Thurmont, Maryland:  
Here lies an atheist  
All dressed up

On Dorothy Parkers grave stone, by her choice:  
"Excuse my dust."  
And no place to go.

People often intended that epitaphs carry some measure of humor. And in some cases to tell how the person actually died. On my mother's uncle's grave stone, is the encryption, "Hit on the head with a hammer and robbed."

Of course on some of these old grave stones you will find comments about a devoted mother, or an honorable father.

The real interest in this is not so much what would be placed on a grave stone, but what a person would actually be remembered for? It is interesting that in Scripture, there are those who are honored with few words. They are not necessarily engraved on stone, but stand as a monument even to this day.

For example, "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks" (Heb 11:4). Thirty four words but they have stood as a memorial for centuries.

And what could be written of your life, that you were faithful, a great example of a Christian, a devoted mother, honorable father, or wonderful in every way? Or could it be that you would be ashamed of your epitaph would read?

Actually, you write your own epitaph by the way you live. Paul told the Christians at Corinth: "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men" (2 Cor 3:2).

How does your epitaph read?