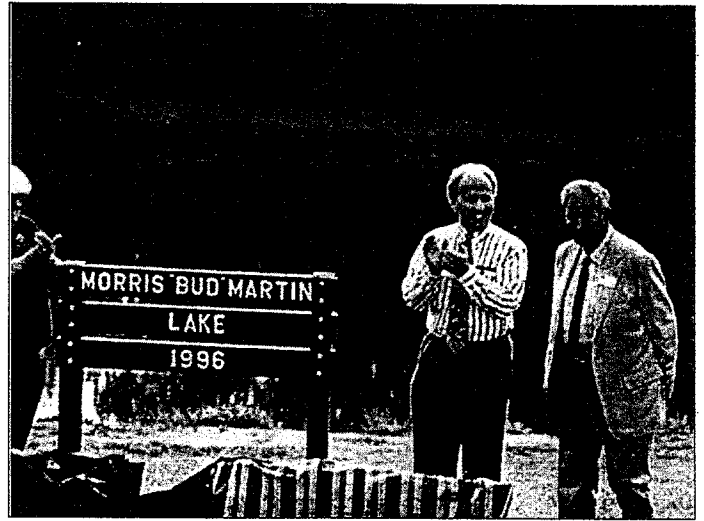


On a closing note, we have come into possession of a poem, author unknown, dedicated to:

BUD—A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Son and husband, Pop and gramps
Making Boy Scouts out of scamps,
Rods and reels, rods and reels—
Mighty fisherman loads his creels.
Dub and divot, slice and clout,
Sporting golfer putts it out.
Army flyer, death defier.
Master chef at outdoor fire.
Needles and pills, needles and pills,
That's the way he cures our ills.
So—for these and far more reasons
Let him stab our flesh and draw our blood—
Where there's life—There's BUD!



At the dedication of Bud Martin Lake, a tribute to our classmate from the Tecumseh Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

WRITTEN FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

by Rudy Roell

The following is an address prepared by Rudy Roell when he was hoping to be able to officiate at our reunion Memorial Service. As many of you know, Rudy is Rector Emeritus of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Dedham, Mass., but health and eyesight prevented him from attending the 65th. From his letter to Ernie Chamberlin: "I've had my 90th birthday and am among the oldest members of our Class. I know what the advancing years are like and am aware of the anxiety men and women have when they start thinking about their mortality. The message I have written could be a comfort to people like that. You may want to distribute it to the group at reunion. Please use your own judgment. If you decide to do nothing with it, it won't hurt my feelings because I've had the fun of writing it and it has helped to strengthen my own faith".

Rudy has given us a beautiful message which we think should be shared with the entire class.

When we were here for our 60th reunion, I remember how shocked I was to learn that 95 of our Classmates had died in the 5-year period since our 55th. Now the names to be read at this service are equally disturbing.

Our residence on this planet is something that, in our adult life, we have always known to be temporary. But, as we grow older, it may be that we are beginning to think of this situation in a more serious way.

How shall we face it? With fear? With indifference? With faith? Is there a future life after death? This is the subject about which I would like to share a few thoughts with you this morning.

Let me say at once, I believe in an after life because we are essentially spiritual beings. I think most of us have the feeling that our real selves are not merely the physical bodies we inhabit so briefly on this earth. In fact, long, long ago human beings came to the conclusion that there had to be some form of immortality because it is just unbelievable that something so wonderful as a human life has so little value that our Creator would let it end up in nothing but the grave.

On this question of our value in the sight of God, the Bible gives us some help because it assures us that there is something special about human beings. In the earliest chapters of Genesis, we are told that men and women have been made in the image and likeness of God. That is not said about any other form of life on earth. It goes on to say that we have been given domination "over the fish of the sea, over the fowls of the air, and over everything that creepeth on the face of the earth."

Though our natural body is not much different from the rest of the animal kingdom, that part of us which reflects divine spirit has made it possible for men and

women to have a rather wonderful and satisfying relationship with our heavenly Father, a relationship which encourages us to think that if we respond to His love and concern, He will provide for us a future more satisfying than the life we have known on earth. And it may be that it is this type of spiritual experience that helps to support mankind's hope of eternal life.

However, this hope can waver, and may need reinforcement with a little more information about God, for our knowledge of Him is limited. Even though we have intimations of His reality, and moments when we are conscious of Him, in actual fact, God is invisible. He cannot be seen by the human eye. We are told in the Bible He is spirit like the wind. Something we can feel, but not see. And because He is Spirit, He can be everywhere, with you, with me, with everyone. There is no place we can hide from Him, even if we wished. This inability to escape from God is the experience the Psalmist must have had when he cried "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up to Heaven, Thou art there, if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there."

This is one way to look at God, as Spirit, a concept that has been of enormous help to human beings, not only as a "very present help in trouble," but also as a source of enlightenment.

In the Old Testament, in the time of Moses, we are told that no man can look upon God and live. The implications of that being that in order to see God, one would have to die. But in the New Testament all that is changed. There, our heavenly Father is shown as having decided to reveal as much of Himself as can be seen in a human being, in a revelation that would be more down to earth, more within our grasp, since we are human and more apt to understand a person than we would a supernatural being.

Likewise, we can assume that the human Jesus, like us, was made in the image of God, but the difference was that He made a reality of that image. He brought it to life. He was God-like. How many people have you come across who would make you want to use the word "God-like" to describe them? There was a goodness in Jesus that coincided with our idea of God's holiness.

Martin Luther, the famous reformer, who founded Lutherism, was recorded to have said that the greatest contribution of Jesus was that He showed us the heart of God.

Mark how close Jesus was to His heavenly Father. Time and again, He is shown going off alone to some quiet place where He could commune with His Father and be filled with new strength and power to meet the demands of the day. He literally "walked with God," like some of the notable figures in the Old Testament. His unusual gift of healing about which people marveled, He never credited to Himself, but always pointed to His heavenly Father, giving Him the glory and saying His unusual powers were not His, but the Father's who had sent Him to do this kind of work.

He once said, "My mission is to bear witness to the truth." That was why He spent so much time teaching. He constantly talked about God and often gave little snapshots of Him in parables which were His favorite way of teaching.

I think one of the loveliest of those parables which reveals God was the familiar one about the Prodigal Son. It is found in the 15th chapter of St. Luke. You probably remember it. There was a young man who, like so many human beings, wanted to be independent of his father. So he went to him and asked for his inheritance, which he received, and then went off to a far country, where he wasted his substance in riotous living. And when he had nothing left, when he was reduced to rags and faint with hunger, he came to himself, realized how wrong he had been, when all the while he might have been home with his father, where there was bread enough and to spare. So he arose and went to his father, full of fear that he might not be welcome. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the young man said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no longer worthy to be called thy son, make me as one of thy hired servants."

But the father said to the servants, "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and bring hither the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry. For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

This is the picture Jesus has given of the way God treats His wayward children. If sometimes we wonder, as we review our lives and perhaps feel guilty about the errors we have made, what a comfort it is to be assured that our heavenly Father is compassionate, is ready to forgive us and will give us another chance, once we have made up our minds to do better. This picture shows us the loving heart of God, His generosity, and

His graciousness. It is Jesus' way of relating the truth about the power behind this universe.

Can we believe it? It won't help us much unless we do. The Bible is full of messages that could be a benefit to human beings, but in order to profit from these insights, we have to believe them. Religion is faith. We cannot get away from that truth. There is always mystery and uncertainty around us and an understanding faith is not easy to acquire.

Even those who were closest to Jesus discovered that. His disciples had lived with Him, heard Him, saw Him in action, but they didn't understand Him. One of them betrayed Him. When Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God which He had come to found, the disciples' first reaction was so self-regarding that they asked to be given the privilege to sit on His right and His left when His Kingdom was established.

When Jesus talked about His death and rising again in 3 days, that really threw them. When Jesus finally died on the cross, the disciples were the saddest, most bewildered and frightened bunch that could be found anywhere. Even after Jesus rose from the dead, there were some, like Thomas, who had not seen Him alive, and who just would not believe the reports.

What changed this disorganized and discouraged group of followers? What made them so brave, so vigorous in their promotion of Christianity that tradition tells us they all became martyrs. Each of them gave his life for the cause.

These disciples, like all mankind, recognized their mortality and had been afflicted with the fear of death. It was a mystery they could not fathom, a danger they faced with dread. No one had ever proved that there was life after death. No one, until along came Jesus. He alone had conquered it. He alone was the gladiator who at last had defeated this ancient enemy of humankind and with His victory, the promises He made of a future life became believable.

"In my Father's house are many mansions," He said, "If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you may be also."

Jesus' early disciples may have had trouble understanding or believing these words when they first heard them, but after the resurrection, their fear of death vanished and with their newly awakened trust in Jesus, were able to become martyrs and heroes of the faith.

We today do not have the privilege of being eye-witnesses of Christ's victory over death, but it is possible for us to join the whole company on earth and in Paradise, whose trust in Christ enables them to believe that "we too shall rise."

How does the Church say that we can unite with Christ and benefit from His victory? I think many Christians do not realize they have already taken the first step in this direction when they were baptized. That's why baptism is so important that parents will overcome any inconvenience to see that their children receive this sacrament.

Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit, with prayers and the sign of the cross on the forehead, is our identification that we belong to the Lord. By this initial step, if we trust in Christ, we can be assured that He will come again, as He promised and will lead us to the Father's house where we will be very busy, very busy greeting our departed classmates and those others in this life who were dear to us, greeting them in the greatest and most glorious reunion we have ever known. Here is how one of our hymns describes that meeting.

"O then what raptured greetings
On Canaan's happy shore!
What knitting severed friendships up
Where partings are no more!"