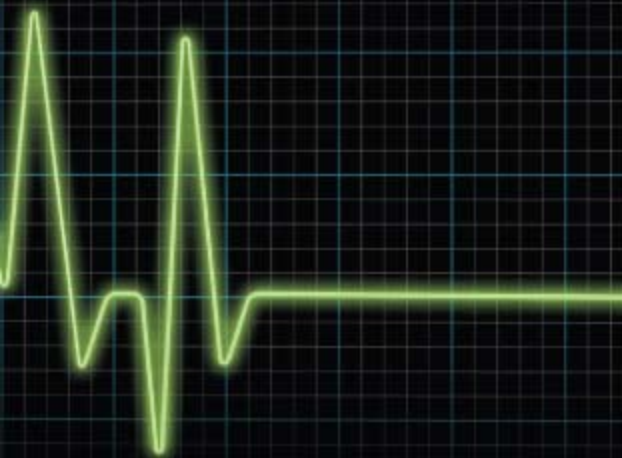


goodnight
or
goodbye?



Dr. Langdale of New York tells of a devoted Christian businessman who was struck by an automobile and rushed to a hospital. Doctors informed him that he had about two hours left to live.

His faith was unshakable in the goodness of God in this life and in a future life in Heaven. To him, death was only a gateway leading to the presence of God and to his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

His family was hurriedly called to his bedside, and as he embraced each one, he had a parting word for them.

"Beloved," he said to his wife, "you have been the dearest woman in the world to me. Through sunshine and shadow we have walked together. You have been my inspiration in all that I have undertaken. And many times I have seen the Spirit of God shining in your face. Good night, my dear, I'll see you in the morning. Good night."

To his daughter he said, "Mary, you are our first born. What a joy you have been to me. I see your mother reflected in you — the sweet and beautiful young woman who left her home to be the builder and keeper of mine. And what a fine Christian you are. Good night, Mary, dear, good night."

He then turned to the oldest son. "Will, your coming into our home has been an unmixed blessing. You were a manly boy; you have become an exemplary man. You love and seek to serve the God of your father. Continue to grow

in every Christian grace and virtue. Good night, Will, good night."

Charlie, the middle son, was next. Charlie had fallen under evil influences and had grievously disappointed his father and mother. But the dying man skipped him and spoke to the youngest child next.

"Gracie, your coming was like the breaking of a new day in our home. You have filled our hearts with music. When not long ago you surrendered your soul to Christ, our joy was full to overflowing. Good night, little girl, good night."

He then called Charlie to his side. "Charlie, you were a promising boy, but I believe you know that you have disappointed your mother and I. You have followed the broad and downward road. You have not heeded the call of the Saviour. But I love you, Charlie...God only knows how much I love you. Good-bye, Charlie, *Good-bye. Good-bye.*"

Charlie seized his father's hand, and between sobs, cried: "Father, why have you said 'good night' to the others and 'good-bye' to me?"

"Son, I will meet the others of the family in the Morning because of the promises in the Word of God that assure us of a reunion in Heaven. But by those same Words of God, I have no hope of seeing you over there. It **is** good-bye, Charlie."

Charlie fell on his knees by the bedside. He cried out in agony of his soul, praying that God would forgive his sins and make him a new man in Christ."

"Do you mean it, Charlie? Are you sincere, Charlie?"

"God knows that I am," said the brokenhearted young man between sobs.

"Then God will hear you and save you, and it will not be good-bye! So good night, my son, good night." And in a moment's time, the father was gone. Today Charlie is a preacher of the Gospel.

Oh, dear husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, loved one...when the shadow of death falls and you go to "sleep," will it be to those who love you just a short "good night" or will it be "good-bye" forever? Only you can make this everlasting choice!

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

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