



SOMETHING BETTER IS COMING!

Consider yourselves reminded

“For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.
⁽²²⁾But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ⁽²³⁾For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is FAR BETTER.*”

~Philippians 1:21-23 NKJV/emphasis

THE STORY IS TOLD of a Christian woman who was given three months to live. Her doctor told her to start making preparations to die (something we all should all have done).

So she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss her final wishes. She told him which hymns she wanted sung at her service, what Scriptures she would like read, and what she wanted to be wearing. The woman also said that she wanted to be buried with her favorite Bible.

Everything was in order, and the pastor was preparing to leave, when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “Oh, there’s one more thing,” she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply. “This is very important,” the woman continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.” The pastor stood looking at the woman not knowing quite what to say. “That shocks you doesn’t it?” The woman asked. “Well to be honest, I am puzzled by the request,” said the pastor.

The woman explained. “In all my years of attending

church socials and function where food was involved (and let’s be honest, food IS an important part of any church event, spiritual or otherwise), my favorite part was when whoever was clearing away the dishes of the main course would lean over and say, ‘Please keep your fork.’ That was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming. When they told me to keep my fork, I knew that something great was about to be given to me. It wasn’t Jell-O or pudding for dessert. It was cake or pie—something with substance! So I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand, and I want them to wonder, ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them, ‘Something better is coming,’ and how they can be sure.”

At the funeral, people walked by the woman’s casket, saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favorite Bible—and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over the pastor heard the question “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor related the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also explained to them about the fork and what it symbolized to her. He read from God’s Word and proclaimed the Gospel message. Then he urged the people, “So, the next time you reach for that fork, let it remind you that something better is coming if you belong to Christ. Make sure that you have accepted our Lord Jesus Christ’s payment for your sin. If you have prepared for Eternity by trusting in Jesus’ substitutionary death on the Cross, then indeed, something far better is coming for you.”

