



George E. Thomas

December 12, 1911 - July 19, 2012

George Edward Thomas passed away Thursday, July 19, 2012, at Lake Regional Health System in Osage Beach, Missouri, after a brief illness. George was born December 12, 1911, in Clay County, Missouri, one of eight children of Wm. and Lula Evans Thomas.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, Pauline Jones; son Raymond; two great-grandchildren; brothers Wm., Robert, and Ralph and sisters Dora Alice and Mary Ruth and an infant sister Leah.

He is survived by daughter Arlene Mohler and husband Nip of Sunrise Beach, 5 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren; brother Roy and his wife Margaret; brother-in-law Lester Jones and wife Ruth and many relatives and friends.

George retired as a truck driver from Belger Cartage Company before he and Pauline moved to the Lake of the Ozarks in 1978, where he became a charter member of West Lake Christian Church.

A visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Church-Archer-Pasley Funeral Home in Liberty, Missouri, with a memorial service to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Reverend Jeffrey Hon officiating. Inurnment will be in the White Chapel Gardens Cemetery in North Kansas City, Missouri

immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to West Lake Christian Church, 936 Highway O, Laurie MO 65037. Expressions of sympathy may be left online at www.kidwellgarber.com. Cremation arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel and services are under the direction of the Church-Archer-Pasley Funeral Home in Liberty.

Tribute Wall

“What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?

“If a man die, shall he live again?” asked the man Job long ago. (Job 14:14, King James Version) Perhaps you, too, have wondered about this. How would you feel if you knew that a reunion with your loved ones was possible right here on earth under the best of conditions?

Well, the Bible makes the promise: “Your dead ones will live. . . . They will rise up.” And the Bible also says: “The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it.”—Isaiah 26:19; Psalm 37:29.

To have real confidence in such promises, we need to answer some basic questions: Why do people die? Where are the dead? And how can we be sure they can live again?

Death, and What Happens When We Die

The Bible makes it clear that God did not originally intend for humans to die. He created the first human pair Adam and Eve, placed them in an earthly paradise called Eden, and instructed them to have children and extend their Paradise home earth wide. They would die only if they disobeyed his instructions.—Genesis 1:28; 2:15-17.

Lacking appreciation for God’s kindness, Adam and Eve did disobey and were made to pay the prescribed penalty. “You [will] return to the ground,” God told Adam, “for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19) Before his creation Adam did not exist; he was dust. And for his disobedience, or sin, Adam was sentenced to return to dust, to a state of nonexistence.

Death is thus an absence of life. The Bible draws the contrast: “The wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life.” (Romans 6:23) Showing that death is a state of total unconsciousness, the Bible says: “For the living are conscious that they will die; but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all.” (Ecclesiastes 9:5) When a person dies, the Bible explains: “His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; in that day his thoughts do perish.”—Psalm 146:3, 4.

However, since only Adam and Eve disobeyed that command in

Eden, why do we all die? It is because all of us were born after Adam's disobedience, and so we all inherited sin and death from him. As the Bible explains: "Through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men."—Romans 5:12; Job 14:4.

Yet someone may ask: 'Don't humans have an immortal soul that survives death?' Many have taught this, even saying that death is a doorway to another life. But that idea does not come from the Bible. Rather, God's Word teaches that you are a soul, that your soul is really you, with all your physical and mental qualities. (Genesis 2:7; Jeremiah 2:34; Proverbs 2:10) Also, the Bible says: "The soul that is sinning—it itself will die." (Ezekiel 18:4) Nowhere does the Bible teach that man has an immortal soul that survives the death of the body.

How Humans Can Live Again

After sin and death entered the world, God revealed that it was his purpose that the dead be restored to life by means of a resurrection. Thus the Bible explains: "Abraham . . . reckoned that God was able to raise [his son Isaac] up even from the dead." (Hebrews 11:17-19) Abraham's confidence was not misplaced, for the Bible says of the Almighty: "He is a God, not of the dead, but of the living, for they are all living to him."—Luke 20:37, 38.

Yes, Almighty God has not only the power but also the desire to resurrect persons whom he chooses. Jesus Christ himself said: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out."—John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15.

Not long after saying this, Jesus met a funeral procession coming out of the Israelite city of Nain. The dead young man was the only child of a widow. On seeing her extreme grief, Jesus was moved with pity. So, addressing the corpse, he commanded: "Young man, I say to you, Get up!" And the man sat up, and Jesus gave him to his mother.—Luke 7:11-17.

As in the case of that widow, there was also great ecstasy when Jesus visited the home of Jairus, a presiding officer of the Jewi