

A Letter to a Lost Loved One

by Carolyn Webb

(The following is not written to any particular individual, but is an expression of a caring Christian's concern and confusion when a loved one takes a path away from God. I hope it provides encouragement to others who may find themselves in this position.)



The end of the church year and start of the holiday season has me thinking of you. I've heard you say that you don't ever want to come to church again. You are spiritual, not religious. The God you grew up with doesn't fit your lifestyle. This makes my heart ache for you. I'm afraid that if you continue in this path you will die without trusting in Jesus as the only way to heaven. You were baptized into God's family and brought up in a Christian family. I have trusted God's promise in John 10:28-30, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one can snatch them out of My hand." Yet, it appears to me that you have taken yourself out of God's hand. When I've tried to talk to you about it, you've told me to mind my own business and stay out of your life.

I have prayed for you. I have cried for you. I have even questioned God's promises myself. There appears to be a contradiction between the promise in John 10 and the parable of the seed that falls among rock and weeds. Are you the rock, "the one who received the word with joy when they hear it but have no root, believing for a while, but in time of testing have fallen away"? Or are you the seed that has fallen among the weeds, hearing God's word but as you "went on your way were choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and you have not matured"? (Luke 8:13-14) My hope is that there is no contradiction between the promise and the parable. Maybe God will take that rock and break it down or till the weeds into the soil to create a more fertile soil. Maybe when the seed is sown again, it will take root.

I'm not God, I can't see what is in your heart or in your future. I know that God has created us with the ability to make choices. He has also provided a salvation plan in which His Son saved us from our bad choices. While I am saddened that it appears you have separated from God, I will remember that "man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7) I will not nag you, but I will continue to pray for you "confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:13) In that final day, I pray that you will be with your Savior in paradise."



Season: Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas

Video: 7. Confirmed in Christ!

17. How do you get out of the Muck?

18. Planting the Seeds

Devotions: 68. Need Directions?

102. After the Feasting

106. The Gap

107. Go to Church

121. Hope for Wanderers

154. Reunions

Prayer: 69. Dear Father in heaven, I ask you to forgive...

Super Girl: 10. "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way..."

16. Ever feel like you're completely lost?

Scripture References: Isaiah 27:3; Jeremiah 23:4; John 6:27, 37, 39; John 10:29; John 17:2; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 1:2; 1 John 2:25; Romans 2:7; Romans 8:25; Hebrews 6:1; Luke 16:15; 1 John 8:15; Acts 1:24; Genesis 4:5; 1 Samuel 2:3; 2 Samuel 7:20; 1 Kings 8:39; 1 Chronicles 28:9; 2 Chronicles 6:30; Job 10:4

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