

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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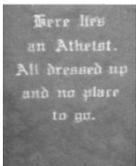
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## All Dressed Up And No Place To Go

(Jerry Fite)

In a cemetery in Thurmont, Maryland the following epitaph was found on a headstone:

If we were talking about a girl who was dressed up, all but had just been “stood up” by an inconsiderate date, we would sorrow with her. Yet, we could console her with the probability that there would be other more considerate dates in her future. But we are considering a dead body, not a stood up date; and with death, there are no more opportunities in the material world to get dressed up. This is truly a sad statement for the end of one’s life. But is the epitaph true?



God reveals when we die, we leave in a naked state. The Atheist did not believe there was more to him or her than just a breath-animating- body. Job said, “Naked came out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither” (Job 2:21). While “naked” here is in the context of not being able to take any earthly possessions beyond the grave, it is also the state of the spirit when the physical body is struck down as a tent. Paul en-

courages the Christian that this naked state is not their final condition: “For verily in this do we groan, longing to be clothed upon with our habitation which is from heaven; if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked...not for that we would be unclothed, but that we would be clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up of life” (2 Corinthians 5:2-4)

God also informs us where the conscious, but naked spirit goes at the time of death. Jesus spoke of a specific case where a man named Lazarus and a rich man experienced what happens immediately following death: “and the rich man also died, and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes...and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom” (Luke 16:22-23). The rich man was buried, and had a place to go: “Hades” – the place for departed spirits. His body with his closed eyes intact was buried, but he can “see”. His body including his brain and sensory nerves were buried, but in Hades he feels the pain of “anguish”, and can “remember” his life and relationships in the body (Luke 16:24, 25, 27-28). If God’s word is true, then the Atheist now realizes his epitaph

is wrong: He is naked, but conscious spirit has gone to Hades – a little different from all dressed up and no place to go.

What evidence do we have that an Atheist lies in the grave? An exhumed body would offer no evidence that the person was an Atheist. Atheism is a spiritual belief system where God is an impossibility. Living associates might verify the atheism of the deceased person. Other than that, we must rely on the testimony of the Atheist.

God has given His testimony of His existence in His Word – The Bible (*Genesis 1:1*). We have His testimony and promise of a future home in a place called heaven (*1 Peter 1:3-5*). Eye-witness testimony is offered for the reality of the death and resurrection of God’s Son (*1 Corinthians 15:4-8*). We can raise our eyes into the heavens and see the evidence for an omnipotent and omniscient God (*Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1*). We have more evidence for God and His resurrected Son than we do for our Atheist lying in the grave. Sadly, the Atheist lived his life with a closed mind and has died hopeless, thinking there is no place to go.