



A bank in Binghamton, New York, had some flowers sent to a competitor who had recently moved into a new building. There was a mix-up at the flower shop, and the card sent with the arrangement read, "With our deepest sympathy."

The florist, who was greatly embarrassed, apologized. But he was even more embarrassed when he realized that the card intended for the bank was attached to a floral arrangement sent to a funeral home in honor of a deceased person. That card read, "Congratulations on your new location!"

For the Christian, death is like going to a new and better location. And to be in a beautiful place with Jesus, to leave heartaches and physical pain behind, to be reunited with loved ones – all that is something to look forward to, not to dread or fear. So to the believer who passes on we can indeed say, "Congratulations on your new location!"

When Robert Browning's father lay dying — he was past eighty at the time — his cheerfulness alarmed the attending physician. "Does the old gentleman know he is dying?" the doctor inquired of his daughter in a low voice.

The father overheard him and smiled. "Death is no enemy in my eyes," he said.

Think of...

Stepping on a shore, and finding it Heaven!
 Of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand.
 Of breathing new air, and finding it celestial air.
 Of feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality.
 Of passing from storm and tempest to an unbroken calm.
 Of waking up, and finding Home.

—Robert E. Selle

Getting Ready for Heaven!

By David Brandt Berg

Are you looking forward to your place in Heaven? Do you know that you will be going there when you die, and are you comfortable with that? Are you content and relaxed about going when your time comes, because you know that you will look up into the face of Jesus, Who will take you into His arms and say, "Welcome Home"? I hope you are, but if not, you can get ready right now!

Just pray, humbly and sincerely; just reach out from your heart to Jesus. Just ask Him to come into your life—and He will! Just like that! He'll forgive any sin or anything that's come between you and Him, and He'll take you in His arms in spirit, and He'll give you the reassurance that you need that you'll be with Him forever.

He doesn't forget His Own. If you've opened your heart to Him, He'll be with you at the moment of your death, and beyond—because He loves you! He died for you, and He wants to give you peace and happiness every second, even when you stand at the threshold of the next life. He wants to be right there with you, holding your hand in spirit, and helping you to take that step.

So don't worry, but know that He has prepared the way for you, and He will be there to greet you when you go. He loves you, and He died so He could go and prepare a wonderful place, so that you could be with Him there forever.

*When morning dawns, farewell to earthly sorrow!
 Farewell to all these troubles of today!
 There'll be no pain, no death in God's tomorrow,
 When morning dawns, and shadows flee away!*

**Though my soul may set in darkness,
 It will rise in perfect light.
 I have loved the stars too fondly
 To be fearful of the night.
 —Attributed to an aged astronomer**

For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court, but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord.

—Haddon W. Robinson