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Dr. Arthur H. Compton - 1928 Nobel Prize winner in Physics.

No reason remains for supposing the soul dies with the body. We scientists find strong reasons for believing that man is of extraordinary importance in the cosmic scheme. He says, It takes a lifetime to build the character of a noble man. The exercise and discipline of youth, the struggles and failures of maturity, the loneliness and tranquility of age. These are the things through which man must pass to develop the pure gold of the soul. What an infinite waste! As long as there is a God of love in the Heavens, there must be for His children Everlasting Life!

And, I might add, True Science and true religion will never conflict.

Richard L. Evans - ~~Just when would we be willing to leave those we love?~~

My brothers and sisters and friends I am honored and privileged to have been asked to participate here this morning as we pay our respect and honor to our beloved Zola May Stapley Deshler whom God has called from this mortal life. And I pray that what I have prepared to say will be in keeping with the beautiful Spirit that we feel here with us today.

The Lord loved Zola and she had a great love for the Lord in whom she demonstrated a mighty faith that I am sure kept her with us until her mission in this life was completed. She dearly loved her family and was grateful for her heritage: That she descended from noble women and men of faith and dedication who served valiantly in the cause of truth and righteousness. She was grateful for a good husband ^{HUNSAKER} who preceded her in death and for her daughter Sandra and for Hugh and her beautiful granddaughters, and of course her brothers and sisters and others of the Stapley family, and the Hunsaker family,

I understand that it was Zola's request that I speak here and certainly I am most honored. We found occasions from time to time to talk and since she and I are both natives of this town we seemed to find many things to talk about and I enjoyed our conversations immensely. You know when Zola was born there were probably no more than 1500 or 2000 people in Mesa and it wasn't until 1930 that the population reached ~~the~~ 3600. Everyone knew just about everyone else and many were related. Some of our conversations sounded like Genealogical research and we enjoyed the memories of early Mesa. And we talked too about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I assure you that ~~and~~ Zola had a burning conviction in regard to it. And I know that she would want me to tell of some of the things that she found most sacred and that she lived by.

We will miss Zola but certainly we can rejoice in the knowledge that we have that there are a multitude of friends and family awaiting her beyond the veil and we have every right to know that her ~~parents~~ parents and her companion and many others of her family and friends are there to welcome and embrace her and that she continues to live; for life is everlasting.

God has told us that it is so. Only He can give us life and only He can preserve it.

And I think it is natural at the passing of a loved one that we contemplate their status in the world beyond. These things come to us by a knowledge of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and I think it is proper that we remind ourselves of some of the things that pertain to the beautiful Plan of God our Heavenly Father for His children that was introduced at the Grand Council in the Heavens before the world was.

We are taught that if mortality were the perfect state, death would be a frustration. The Scriptures say, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord," and this indicates to me that death can be the opening of the door to new opportunities.

Now we do not seek after death for we pray for those who are ill. The Scriptures tell us that we should live together in faith inasmuch that we shall weep for the loss of them that die, and Richard Evans asked the question, Just when would we be willing to ~~leave~~ leave those we love? Death itself is a part of life and is a sorrow that a strong family shares as it shares its joys. We might speak of the time before we came

here and ask ourselves, "Was there really a life before this earth life?" Certainly there was for all the evidence tells us that we are the begotten Spirit children of God - even that we consider ourselves - and call each other - brothers and sisters. We are the Spirit children of God and you remember that the Lord revealed to Adam that He created all things spiritually before they were naturally upon the earth. He revealed to Jeremiah that He knew him and that He sanctified and ordained him a Prophet unto the nations before he was born.

Paul taught that man has a Spiritual birth when he wrote to the Hebrews that we have a father of our Spirits. And, of course, it is further written, "The dust shall return unto the earth as it was and the Spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Now we never return to a place that we have never been before. And so each of us lived in the presence of God prior to our birth when we take upon ourselves a mortal body.

And then this earth life with its joys and sorrows is a necessary part of our Eternal existence and an important part of the great Plan. The principle of Eternal Progression and Eternal happiness is dependant upon our coming here and receiving this body. Even the Savior was obligated to come to the earth and take upon himself an earthly body.

He experienced joy and sorrow and happiness and frequent dissappointments. And Paul tells us that "Though He were a son of God - yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered - and being made perfect - He became the author of Eternal Salvation unto all them that obey Him."

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obedience by the things ~~that~~ which He suffered - and being made perfect - He became the author of Eternal Salvation unto all them that obey him."

Now we know of this life and the hazards and pitfalls of mortality - we are told about this even before we came here. And we know too about the experience of what we call death.

And then what after that.

Job asked, "if a man die, shall he live again"?
Will there ever be a reunion with our loved ones?
Is there - in fact - immortality?
Is there truly a life after this?

You know, all of us have the hope - if not the faith = that there is ~~such~~ such a life.

And we can take heart in the fact of the existence of God and immortality for it is the best established information that we have!

It is interesting to note that great and intelligent men in all fields have this belief in God and in immortality.

An ancient philosopher Cicero gave the following in regard to immortality: He said, "I am well convinced that my departed friends are so far from having ceased to live that the state they now enjoy can alone - with propriety - be called life.

He said, "I ~~would~~ feel myself transported with impatience to rejoin those whose characters I have greatly respected and those persons I have loved."

He said, "I would not turn back on my journey even on the assured condition that my youth would be again restored."

Tagore said, "Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come."

Emerson said, "All serious souls are better believers in immortality than they ~~can~~ can give reason for, and I am sure that we feel the truth of immortality with an intuition that is higher than reason.

And of course there are many others that could be quoted - testifying in effect to the existence of God and of immortality.

But, You know, I think it is more interesting and significant that the Prophets declare God's existence. - And their knowledge is by experience with God.

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Many Prophets have seen him. Many of them have received their knowledge by revelation of the Holy Ghost - by which we may know the truth of all things.

But they all know that God does live and they know that Jesus is the Christ and that He lives.

And that He has given us this plan whereby we may gain salvation and even exaltation.

And then getting back to Job's question, "If a man die shall He live again."

Certainly there is another reality that gives us assurance on such occasions as this. It is the reality of the resurrection.

You remember that Paul said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and became the first fruits of them that slept - for since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."
"For as in Adam all die - even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

You know, when Christ was resurrected - we read in the new testament - in matthew - that many of the saints which slept arose - and came out of their graves and were seen by many.

And we remember the beautiful account of the resurrection - when the Savior was so concerned about Mary Magdaline who was weeping at His tomb.

And He delivered to her the assurance that He was a resurrected being and asked her to go and announce to the brethren that he would ascend unto the Father.

And we know too that at the Savior's resurrection, those many other saints that we have spoken of came from their graves in the same identical manner - in complete fulfillment of the prediction stated by Amulek in these words:

"The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; - even as we are at this time."

The risen Lord appeared to many including Peter - his chief apostle and - as reported by Paul, - "He was seen of about five hundred brethren at once."

And last of all, said Paul - "He was seen of me also."

The reality of the resurrection was well verified.

These are the facts. - This is the plan that makes things right as we pass on from this mortal life - as experienced by our beloved

This is the answer to Job's question - "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Our Heavenly Father loves us. He prepares for His children and I assure you that He has a very special place for this great lady whom we honor today.

We have the assurance that we may have that glorious reunion one day - where we can be together again - if we live for it. - Where we can have the companionship once more of our beloved Zola and others of our family and friends and loved ones who have passed on from this life.

The Lord has provided the way. We have the guidelines. And I pray that we may have the strength and courage to follow them and live happily and successfully.

I ask the blessings of the Lord upon Sandra and Hugh and their family and upon the Stapley family and upon all who feel a the stress that was brought about by her passing from this life.

I ask it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.