

life's condition and location. It is but the opening of a door which admits the Christian believer into a fuller, richer, freer life in Christ than he had ever known before. This is our Christian hope. This is thy promise. Our faith lays hold upon thy faithful word in this hour of grief.

We recall that it was for our assurance and encouragement that our Lord traveled this way before us. For this he endured the reproaches of men and died upon the cross of Calvary. Because of his victory over death, the tomb can no more hold the Christian than it could hold him; for

"Life is ever Lord of death
And love can never lose its own."

Now, our Father, we thank thee that it was our privilege to have known this servant of thine. How many of us here this afternoon could testify that he was a true friend, a ready helper, a wise and inspiring leader! Above all, we thank thee for the example of Christian devotion which he set before us. We could see the high purpose in his every act, the truthfulness in his every word, the sincerity in his geniality, the greatness in his simplicity. May these lessons not be lost upon us, but may the memory of his life be to us a constant inspiration to nobler living.

We pray that we may dedicate all our talents and strength to those causes which were so dear to his heart: to the championing of truth and right in all the areas of life, to the preaching of the gospel of grace, to the teaching of the word of God, to the churches of the Northern Baptist Convention, to the Sunday schools throughout our land, to the evangelization of the world.