

jun 11

we lay a friend to rest today. my emotions run from sadness to envy. sadness that we shall no longer hear his laugh or see his smile in this life. envy because he has beat me to taste the life to come. my friend has entered the great "I AM". since we have made a covenant with Jesus - because He is, we are. now we will be with Him forever.

my friend did not leave his body today, but it is today we say our final goodbyes. i join with all those who loved him as i did. i should say as we still do, because he is now more alive than ever. it is only the garment he wore in this life than we lay to rest. he has taken off that garment and dressed in one far more glorious. i think he's really going to like it. he'd better. it may be his for a long, long time.

and now, my tribute to him.

-----

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not there to see;  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today;  
While thinking of the many things  
We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you;  
And each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me  
Please try to understand,  
That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand.

She said my place was ready  
In heaven far above;  
And that I'd have to leave behind,  
All those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away,  
A tear fell from my eye;  
For all my life, I'd always thought  
I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for,  
So much yet to do;  
It seemed almost impossible,  
That I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays,  
The good ones and the bad;  
I thought of all the love we shared,  
And all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday  
Just even for awhile,  
I'd say goodbye and kiss you

And maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized  
That this could never be;  
For emptiness and memories  
Would take the place of me.

And when I thought of worldly things  
I might miss come tomorrow;  
I thought of you, and when I did,  
My heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through heaven's gates  
I felt so much at home;  
When God looked down and smiled at me  
From His great golden throne.

He said, "This is eternity  
And all I've promised you;  
Today your life on earth is past,  
But here it all starts anew."

"I promise no tomorrow,  
But today will always last;  
And since each day's the same day,  
There's no longing for the past."

"But you have been so faithful,  
So trusting and so true;  
Though at times you did do things,  
You knew you shouldn't do."

"But you have been forgiven  
And now at last you're free;

So won't you take my hand  
And share my life with me?"

So when tomorrow starts without me,  
Don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me,  
I'm right here in your heart.

David Romano

-----

"we are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be  
absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."  
2 cor 5:8