



# **Finders are Keepers**

**LifeCare Memos® – Messages of Compassion**

## **A Gift Amid the Losses**

*When life's losses come to us, **GOD** offers us an incredible gift!*

When our family experienced the passing of our mom and grand-mother, a great granddaughter expressed her loss by often asking, “*Why did Grammy have to die?*”

Almost everyone has been by the bedside of a loved one and wondered: “How did life pass by so quickly?” Losing what we value most in this life begins long before that final departure. Like fading flowers or the vanishing strength of youth, life is filled with countless reminders that

*“Life is but a vapor that soon vanishes”* (James 1:14).

Often when people face losses, passing memories and sad longings for the past are all that remain. Many feel the depression of a popular singer of the past:

“I'm in no hurry for that final disappointment. When that final moment comes and I'm breathing my last breath, I'll be saying to myself, is that all there is?” (Written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. It was made popular by singer Peggy Lee.)

Doesn't life offer anything permanent that can be our anchor? Why do so many people feel lost in this life? Why does death, and its resulting losses, have a permanent grip on all of us?

## **The Grip of Sin**

When the first man and woman rebelled against their Creator, their paradise home changed to a place of pain, sorrow and loss. Mankind's tragedy has continued throughout history because all of us have either ignored or rebelled against our **GOD** in some way.

*“In this way death came to all men, because all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12).

Without **GOD**, we are lost!

You might object, since you don't see yourself as an evil person. But **GOD**'s standard is perfect righteousness. Trying to be "good enough" simply doesn't meet His holy standards.

*"All have fallen short of the Glory of **GOD**"* (Romans 3:23).

But there is One who conquered death and its fearful grip on each of us—Jesus Christ! He told us,

*"I have come to give you life, life to the fullest!"* (John 10:10)

### ***Breaking the Grip of Sin***

So how did **GOD** break this deadly grip of sin and death for us?

First, the Bible tells us that Jesus, the Son of **GOD**, came to earth to become a human being,

*"So that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death"*  
(Hebrews 2:14-15).

Second, though He was innocent of all wrong doing, He took upon himself every evil, selfish, or inhuman act mankind has committed. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, when He died so cruelly on the cross.

*"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray...and **GOD** laid on him (Jesus) the wickedness of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6).

Third, because of Jesus' death on the cross in our place, **GOD** can offer forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe in Christ. If we confess our wrongdoing to Him, **GOD** will forgive every sin we've committed. Christ paid the price for our forgiveness—we just need to accept the gift He gave:

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

## Great News

Here's the best news. Those who are lost can be found! Jesus told the story about a son who left home to find himself. After losing everything, he remembered his father's love and returned home. His father hugged him with joy:

*“Let's celebrate—for this son of mine was lost and is found!”* ( Luke 15:11-24)

Our Heavenly Father welcomes with great joy all who seek Him.

*“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart”*  
(Jeremiah 29:13).

## Gone Ahead

What about those who have died already—are they gone forever? The Bible promises us that we will see them again, if they have also trusted Christ as their Savior.

*“We believe that **GOD** will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.... We who are still alive...will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the **LORD** in the air. And so we will be with the **LORD** forever!”*

(I Thessalonians 4:13-14, 17)

Jesus promised us a life that will fulfill our deepest longings. If we trust him, we will find in our heavenly Father this new life with Him, which we will enjoy forever.

Yes, it is true. Finders *are* keepers!

Norm Thomsen, 321212

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## LifeCare Memos®

When experiencing the stresses of life, people need support. The Psalmist needed that support and found it when he turned to **GOD**. He said, *“Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. I cry to You, O **LORD**; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living’”* (Psalm 142:4-5).

**LifeCare Memos** are designed as messages of compassion that integrate biblical guidelines for emotional and spiritual well-being. Topics focus on various life-care issues and address them from the perspective of Scripture.