

WEEKLY SERMON

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Going Home

Glorious weather this last few days. Endless sunshine; exploding trees and plants; the broad beans arcing upwards in the allotment ...

Forget the trials and tribulations of the world for just a moment and bask in the coming of the summer.

I've enjoyed 67 summers and this is the beginning of my 68th: all of them fading now into the rich store of my memory. My relative longevity is increasingly a cause of thanks to God for all the blessings I have enjoyed in my time.

Thing is, the more life I get, the more I like it, and the less appealing becomes the idea of moving on and leaving the younger generation of my loved ones behind as I and indeed all of us must do one day.

But there is so much more to come: in 2 *Timothy* we hear: 'The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever.'

It's a wonderful thought, the idea of falling and then being swept up by the ever-loving arms of God to dwell in eternal sunshine that knocks the spots off our human experience of this world.

In *Romans 5*, there is more blessed assurance: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

I can't possibly imagine the glory and splendour of God's Kingdom, but it is a huge comfort to think that I am heading for it. In his song *Wayfaring Stranger*, folk hero Johnny Cash sings: 'There's no sickness, no toil or danger, In that bright land to which I go, So I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going, going home.'

John 3:16, says famously that Jesus came into the world so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. Darkness defeated and light triumphant – and a clear path home: what a wonderful promise.

Have a brilliant summer – here's hoping the weather holds up, the potatoes grow big, and the promise of God stays strong in our hearts.

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