

Celebration of the Life of Bradley Evans Fox

April 20, 2008

3:00 P.M. Gibbs Chapel Wesleyan Church

By Dewey Evans Fox – Father of Bradley Evans Fox



We would like to thank the church for letting us use their facility and the many people that helped make this celebration possible. I feel it only appropriate that it happens this way. Bradley was a fifth generation that was raised in this church. My great grandparents as well my grandparents help nurture this church in the early days of its beginning, over 100 years ago. My mother went to this church, and still does. I attended this church as a child and young adult and then Bradley was very active in this church during his childhood and teenage years. His beginning years were in Gibbs Chapel and his earthly ending will be in this church as his last church service.

We are greatly honored that you came today.

We are here today, to "Celebrate the Life of Bradley Evans Fox." A life that was cut short for all that loved him. But we all know that God has the better plan and the master plan. **Romans 8:28 NASB (28)** "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" With all the hurt, pain and grief we can only look to and put our trust in the one and only true God, the God of the Holy Bible, the creator of this universe as well as the Creator of you and I.

There is never a good time to lose someone you love. We don't know why death and bad things happen to people in an untimely matter, in our eyes, but we have to remember, "God is in control and God is Sovereign."

Song - "Celebrate With Me." We want to play a song that God sent into my life a few weeks ago. This song is based II Corinthians 4:16: Just close your eyes and listen to the words. It was written to be sung for a time like this.

The parents of Bradley Evans Fox have joined the most unwanted club in the world. "We have outlived one of our children." I don't know of anyone that wants to join this club. It's not supposed to be that way; children are to die after their parents. Of course, that is our plan, but sometimes God has another plan for our life. We just have to put our trust and our faith in a loving and caring God, because He is in control and knows what He is doing. He has a plan for each of us. In the book of Jeremiah God says; *"Before I formed you in the belly I knew you, and before you came out of the womb I did set you apart* (Jeremiah 1:5a The Scriptures 1998+) We are all different; Thank God. But we are all made in the image of God. Amen.

We all travel many roads and each one of us a different road, but hopefully by the end you will be on the right road to Jesus Christ.

Song - "So Many Roads." – It's the story of Bradley Fox, it the story of Dewey Fox's life and may be the story of your life, listen carefully. Especially the beginning words.

I have to come to terms with death. You have to cope with it. There is no other choice and there is not a good time or convenience time for death. The Bible says in Hebrew; *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,* (Hebrews 9:27 NASB) There is no way out of this temporary earthy life except by death, of course unless the Lord comes back before we die. God tells us early in the Bible, after He made man and then the downfall of man, what our fate will be; *"By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."* (Genesis 3:19 NASB)

Death is the penalty of Sin since the fall of Adam and Eve.

Bradley's Bible - II Timothy 4:2.

to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach, and encourage, as you teach with all patience.
(2 Timothy 4:2 GNB)

Where do we go in times of pain, grief and sorrow? We look for comfort in the Word of God, the Bible. "It's a time to draw nearer to our Lord."

I would like to read first from the Book of II Samuel, chapter 12 and verses 15-23. It tells the story of David and Bathsheba and the death of their son. You probably know the story, but today we Do Not want to concentrate on the negative part of the story, which you probably know well, only the positive side. David, the Bible says, "A man after God's own heart!" What did David do in his time of his grief?

2 Samuel 12:15-23 NASB

- (15) *So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick.*
- (16) *David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.*
- (17) *The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.*
- (18) *Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm!"*
- (19) *But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."*

This next verse is what I want to relate to you. What did David, in all his sorrow pain and grief turn to for comfort?

- (20) *So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.*
- (21) *Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food."*
- (22) *He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'*
- (23) *"But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."*

Another example is God's servant Job. We are just to look in the first chapter of Job to see what Satan did to Job, of course with God's approval. Let's look to see what happened to Job and how he handled it. Again most of you probably know the story.

Job 1:13-22 NASB

(13) *Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,*

(14) *a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,*

(15) *and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

(16) *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

(17) *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

(18) *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,*

(19) *and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

How did Job response to this news that all ten of his children were dead?

(20) *Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.*

Notice that Job did not tear his robe, shave his head and fall to the ground and worshiped God until he was told about his children. The oxen, donkeys, sheep,

camels and his other wealth did not matter, only his children mattered. I would say "Job had his priorities in order." God said in verse 8 about Job, "*For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.*" **(Job 1:8b NASB)**

How did Job explain and handle these deaths?

(21) *He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there.*

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

(22) *Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.*

Bradley Fox did not die in vain; he died at this time for a reason because God has the Grand Divine Plan for each of us. For that divine plan has brought each of you here today. You are not here by accident; you and I are here because of God's providence and He has put us all here together for this celebration. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Amen.

I'll leave you with another verse that Bradley had underlined in his Bible,
Hebrews 10:25.

Bradley's Bible. Hebrews 10:25.

We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming. **(Hebrews 10:25 GW)**

**By Dewey Evans Fox – Father
Of Bradley Evans Fox – First Born**