



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

A Friend Above Friends ~ October 12, 2015

This friend hears our tears even when they silently wet a pillow at night.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Don't weep for me. I've already cried enough for both of us. Instead, weep for others.

Why is my heart broken? After 14 years in our family, our girl dog suddenly got sick and within a couple hours passed away. This was hard on our family. But it was even worse for her canine friend of 11 years, our boy dog.

They say that you need to allow a surviving dog know that his canine friend has died. So as I held Esti's lifeless body, we allowed Watson to look and sniff. Since our boy dog is going blind and is also suffering memory loss, Watson could smell his friend, but he couldn't "find" her. Whining and crying, Watson ran around the house looking for Esti.

Esti's death continued to affect Watson. During these last eight days since Esti died, his forgetting how to chew food became more pronounced, requiring my wife and me to feed him by hand more frequently. But then he stopped eating altogether and became very sick. Just eight days after Esti died, this morning Watson passed away. But don't weep for us. Weep for others.

They say a dog is a man's best friend. I have to agree, because these best friends would follow me throughout the house, or outside in the yard. And since I've always had a study in my home (so I can begin work early and also burn the midnight oil when needed) these loyal friends would also be napping at my feet, if not occasionally sitting in my lap. And when I walked to the kitchen to reload my coffee cup, they followed me there and back. In fact, for the last umpteen years of living in our home, I've spent more time in the company of these two friends than I have with any other person, including my wife and children. No wonder their deaths hit me hard. But please don't feel sorry for me. Feel sorry for others.

Because although my heart is broken, it's not crushed. The Apostle Paul can explain better than I can why this is so. He explains, "We have this treasure [of the gospel of Jesus] in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair... struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:7-9).

While my sinful flesh renders me a fragile jar of clay, the Holy Spirit has deposited inside of me the gospel news about the Son of God who carried away the sins of the world in his body

at the cross—the gospel truth that pulsates with all-surpassing power, so that even when my heart breaks, it is not crushed.



Esti and Watson

Although my sins are added into the accumulation of everyone’s sins, the sum of which earns how the curse of sin¹ eventually sweeps into death all flesh—the flesh of people and pets—Jesus has conquered sin. Jesus has conquered sin so completely, he even twists and turns, presses and conforms sin’s effects of hurt and pain to serve our eternal good.² We don’t need to understand the heavenly mechanics that accomplishes this promise, as long as we know him who makes this promise.

This promise-maker is Jesus, who declared, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29-31). Do we have any better friend than this?

Jesus is the very best friend who lovingly and intimately knows our heartbreak better than we who are experiencing it. Through faith in him, he lives inside us³ with his all-surpassing power so that even when our hearts break, they are not crushed.

So, please don’t weep for me.⁴ I have Jesus, who hears my tears even when they silently wet a pillow at night. Instead, weep for those who don’t know [What a Friend We Have In Jesus](#), our very best friend who binds up the brokenhearted.⁵

Notes (Links may become inactive over time.)

¹ God issued the curse of sin in [Genesis 3:16-19](#) which the Apostle Paul explained further in [Romans 8:19-23](#).

² [Romans 8:28](#) and [Ephesians 1:11](#)

³ [Ephesians 3:16-17](#)

⁴ I’m loosely borrowing the words Jesus spoke as he carried his cross and his followers wept. See [Luke 23:26-31](#)

⁵ [Isaiah 61:1](#) is a prophesy of Jesus and his saving work.

To become a recipient of Viewpoints, please email mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com and simply type the phrase "VP please" in the subject line. Or if you wish to no longer receive Viewpoints, type the phrase "discontinue VP" in the subject line. Thanks.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

