

SERMON: 2017/09/12 (Funeral: Philip Weimer, Jr.) - BTR

So, what are we to make of this sad event?

Many voices these days can be heard saying that this is it:  
We are *just* animals; clever, biological machines not much different to a calculator or an iPhone, just a little more squidgy.

*And that* the terminus of this "(living) journey" is merely the damp darkness of a lonely grave.

There is no hope, and to grieve is the only sane response.  
(I heard a comedian, Jimmy Carr, saying so just a few weeks ago in England - right before I left - on a popular radio show called 'Desert Island Discs.')

But as a Christian I don't believe that.  
I'm not "troubled" by what the doom-mongers say.

And I think this because there *is*, in fact, *masses* of (historical) evidence that there was, long ago, a young rabbi in Israel called Jesus, who said – *and did(!)* – amazing, *impossible* things; and who was killed, *horribly*, by men jealous of his popularity...*but who* didn't *stay* dead, and was seen, in the flesh, alive again:

Visible, on his body, were the scars that proved he had died [Jn. 20:27].  
*And* yet he glowed with light [Mt. 28:3] and was able to eat breakfast with his friends [Jn. 21:12-14].

Because of these *facts*, I *know* that there is something more: something *beyond* this life; and that I should trust Jesus when he said that, as we heard in our Bible reading, *one*, there is a "dwelling place" [Jn. 14:2] waiting for us – "a new earth" of beautiful cities and forests [Is. 65:17 / 2 Pe. 3:13], which I may I enjoy with an ageless, invulnerable body [Is. 65:21-25 / Ez. 47:8-9,12].

And *two*, that we may be granted the pleasure of seeing it by repenting of our sins and joining God's family, the Church. [see: Jn. 3:3, 6:53, 12:25]

This *pair* of facts should astonish us and not just that but transform our lives.  
I pray that they will, Amen.