

Andrew K. Frey Funeral of Dorothy Amley John 14:1-6
“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.
² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would
have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if
I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to
be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way
to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are
going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No
one comes to the Father except through me. (NIV84)

Theme: Dottie is Home with her Savior.

I have to be honest with you, I didn’t know Dottie all that well. I’m
guessing that most of you knew her much better than I did. I first met
Dottie when I started doing services on behalf of Martin Luther Elder
Care Ministries at the Sterling House, where she regularly worshiped
the Lord. Last week I met Dottie in a different setting. She was in her
home, lying on a bed in her living room.

And one of the first things she said to me was, “Pastor, I want to go
home. “I want to go and be with my husband.” But she wasn’t talking
about her home over on Oak St, the one Dottie and Oliver lived and
raised a family in—she was there in her living room. She went on to
say, “I want to go be with Jesus.”

And don’t be mistaken, that is what is truly important. Wanting to be
with Oliver is cute and it may warm our heart. But it doesn’t comfort
our soul; not like, “I want to be with Jesus” does. Dottie confessed her
faith in Christ. She knew that this life isn’t all there is—that there is a
life after this one. She knew full well that this life is full of pain and
sorrow, tears and toil. She longed for a better home. She longed for a
perfect life with her Savior, a life free from pain, mourning, crying.
She longed to be with her Savior, Jesus, who went on ahead of her. **In
my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have
told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go
and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be
with me that you also may be where I am.** Christ has been
preparing a place for you. Right now he is busy getting heaven ready.
Just as he did for Dottie. Right now, Dottie is signing the praises of

Wilson Miller Funeral Home, Midland, MI. September 29, 2014
her Savior. And yet, her eternal life is not yet complete. You see the
problem. Dottie’s body lay lifeless and decaying right over there. Her
soul is in heaven, rejoicing with her fellow believers, singing the
praises of Christ; but her body remains here.
But soon Christ will return. He will come again in his full glory and
raise all bodies from the dead. And the bodies of all believers—
including Dottie’s will rise to heaven with the glory of the Savior.
With soul and body together in heaven, her eternal citizenship will be
complete.
She realized that while she lived on this earth; she was only a
temporary citizen—she truly longed to be home in heaven. She would
say along with Paul in Philippians 3, **Our citizenship is in heaven.
And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his
control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his
glorious body.**

And Dottie knew the way to heaven. She knew she couldn’t make it
on her own. She knew that no matter how good of a person she was;
how nice she was to others, or how many times she obeyed the Lord
she was still a sinner. And because of that she couldn’t earn her way
to heaven, but was actually on her way to eternal damnation.
No, she knew the way to heaven didn’t depend on her, but on Christ.
As Jesus said, **I am the way and the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through me.** It is by Christ and Christ
alone that we have the gifts of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. For
he lived a perfect life that we could not live. Not once did he sin
against God or disobey his commands. And yet he was nailed to the
cross. But on that cross Jesus took all our sins upon himself,
becoming guilty of everything we have done wrong, becoming sin for
us. So he was rejected and forsaken by his Father. Without God and
his love, Christ suffered through eternal damnation. He suffered
through the condemnation that our sins deserve in our place so that we
wouldn’t have to. He paid for our sins and removed their guilt. And
then he gave us his perfect life. So that when God looks at us, he
doesn’t see the sinners that we are, but he sees the perfect life of Christ
and declares us not guilty. But Christ’s cross is empty, and so is his
grave. He rose from the dead three days after he died. Death held no

power over him, he couldn't hold him down. He defeated death and he gives that victory to us. So death does not sting. It is not an end, but the beginning of an eternal and perfect life in heaven.

Dottie knew that is by Christ and Christ alone that we are saved. That we do not and cannot do anything to earn our eternal life. It is a free gift won and given to us by Christ, and it is received through faith in him.

Right now Dottie is home in heaven. With Oliver, sure—along with every other believer in Christ. And more importantly, she is at home with her Savior, Jesus. No longer in pain. No longer filled with tears of sorrow, but tears of joy. Her Savior has brought her out of death to life, to a new eternal and perfect home.

So, do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in (Christ). As Dottie did. She is not dead, but alive. She is at home with her Savior, singing his praise with all her fellow believers. And soon, through faith in Christ, you too will be home. You too will see Dottie again along with all your fellow believers, as you live with Christ and dwell in his heavenly home forever. Amen.

Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Amen.