

# Thoughts About Vickie Allen

*(Editor's Note: I came across some older articles I had written. This one caught my attention as I had the opportunity to preach the funeral of Vickie Allen. The article below was comprised from my funeral sermon.)*

Vickie Allen passed away on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Her life was spent as a child. Due to medical circumstances, she was never given the opportunity to grow as a normal child. Her family had to provide for all her needs. I know her parents at this time feel a sense of loss. There are three things I want to say about her family's faith, commitment, and sacrifice.

Her family showed a great amount of faith. In the short time I have known the Allen's, I have never heard them question God. A lot of people blame God for tragedies in their lives. Harold and Edith accepted Vickie's condition and faithfully lived their lives as servants.

Her family was committed to providing for Vickie. I am sure there were people who suggested that perhaps the Allen's place Vickie in an institution. They understood that Vickie was their baby and they wanted to provide for her to the best of their ability. I was told, most children with Vickie's condition do not live past their teenage years. Yet she lived fifty years. I believe this shows the great care and love that her family was able to give her.

Her family also had to make sacrifices. Edith stayed home day after day to take care of her child. Harold worked at the Post Office during the day and helped out when he got home. I am sure there were many big and little sacrifices they had to make. Not being able to go to places together. One of them almost always had to stay home to take care of Vickie. They were not able to go to worship together, Edith would go in the morning and Harold at night. I am sure their daughters also make many sacrifices. They probably missed out on having their parents present at their school on special occasions.

I want to commend the whole Allen family for the way they loved Vickie.

King David lost a number of children in his life. The first was a young baby. David had sinned and God told the King that his child would die. As his baby got sick, David mourned. He would not eat and he prayed to God that this might not happen. Then the child died and David's servants were afraid at how he would react. The King cleaned himself up and ate some food. "And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me,

that the child may live?' "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:22-23) In this passage we are taught a number of things.

First, it is natural to cry and mourn when we see a loved one suffer. At death we often cry because we will miss the departed.

Second, there are times when all we can do is pray to God and ask for His help. God may at times answer our prayers by giving us what we ask for, there are times when God's answer may be no. David had to accept God's answer.

Third, man does not cease to exist when he dies. Each one of us possesses a soul and that soul is eternal. Death is defined as the spirit or soul being separated from the body, James 2:26. At the point of death our soul awaits the Day of Judgment.

Fourth, David said, "I shall go to him, but he cannot return to me." He had a sense of hope. It is true that we cannot bring back the dead but one day we too shall die. It is not my place to judge the soul of Vickie, that is left up to God. I can say that if we want to go and be with those who will go to heaven we must live faithfully to God's word. If we live unfaithfully to God's word, we will never again see our loved ones who will go to heaven.

Notice I said, we must live faithfully to God's word. What does that mean? If we are going to heaven, we must have our sins forgiven and be in fellowship with God. The only way to have our sins forgiven is by the blood of Christ. In order to do that we must study God's word. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) If you are not interested enough to pick up your Bible and study it, you will not go to heaven. You must accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24) We must come to accept the words of Jesus. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) Repentance involves turning away from sin and turning toward God. Jesus also said we must be baptized for the remission of sin. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

We can live from day to day and not do what Jesus said and be fairly happy in this life. But we cannot live with a sense of purpose and joy. This death serves to remind us we all shall die; some will go to heaven and some will not. The Allens used these circumstances to make themselves better. Are you willing to use your circumstances to go to heaven?

“13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4) – Dennis Tucker