

## **Just a curve . . .**

March 16, 2003

The gymnasium was packed... over 600 folks had gathered. They were there to honor senior Darren Gallup... Darren, a senior at Belmont High School, a National Merit Scholar, football co-captain, and coming off a senior season in which he had set the record for points scored in a single season (126)... Darren, a successful applicant for early admission at Harvard University... Darren Gallup - who, while riding in his Jeep Liberty, lost control on a curve less than a mile from his home - and was killed instantly when the Jeep rolled over pinning him to the ground.

His brother Barry spoke, "Nothing will ever get back to normal... we would throw the football around because we wanted to get better at football, but mostly because we loved to be around each other." In a description of his playing a video game together, Barry said that "Darren would let me come back to tie the score so that we could go into overtime just so we could spend more time together."

Barry then identified the remaining wishes he had that were now impossible to grant... with one more wish, he would hug his older brother, so hard, so long, so passionately..." Barry then noted that on the night of the crash, Darren left a rose on my mother's pillow before leaving the house for the last time.

In a town that lost several people to the infamy of 9/11, Darren's death served to remind all of us once again that none of us live forever... indeed, many of us leave far too soon from our perspective. The Bible teaches two core truths about death... (1) death is an enemy - the unnatural consequence of Adam's rebellion and sin... but (2) death is merely a doorway - a doorway to something so glorious and beautiful that words cannot begin to do it justice... or a doorway to something so tragic that words also fail to describe that state as well. What that door opens up to, of course, depends on you and your relationship to Jesus Christ. When that door opens... of course, is up to God.

Who can afford to wait?