



Dr. Peter R. G. Trumper
Gravesite
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Dr Trumper's remains are buried in the cemetery of Bethany Free Church, Clarbeston Road, Pembrokeshire. Wales. He ministered in and from the locality, first as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Wales (Wiston and Llawhaden) and then as an independent pastor, 1962–1982. Clarbeston Road is located five miles from Haverfordwest.

The cemetery is comparatively new and is located to the rear of the church premises. From the day of the funeral and committal, July 18, 2015:



“Behold, I show you a mystery; . . . In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible . . .” (1 Cor. 15:51-52).



On April 21, 2016, the gravestone was erected courtesy of E.C. Thomas and Son. Apart from the addition of “In loving memory” and “Rev.” the wording is as per the instructions left on Dr Trumper’s computer. Although his omission of “Rev.” bespoke a certain ambivalence about the use of “Reverend” (Psalm 111:9), the decision was taken to include this indication of his ordained status in recognition of his years of ministry long after he ceased, through invalidity, to serve formally as a minister.

Dr Trumper was very clear about two matters; namely, that there would be no “RIP” on the headstone nor a cross. The former he considered trite through excessive use and inappropriate use among those professing no faith in Christ. The latter he saw as just as trite when used as a decoration, since the cross culminated in a brutal and accursed atoning death (Gal.

3:13), and was followed by the empty tomb without which the cross would have no abiding relevance.

Although, as a former actor, Peter Trumper was artistically gifted, he was passionate about the Word of God. Unsurprisingly, then, he preferred the Word of God to signs or symbols on his headstone. The verse he chose, Acts 20:21, resonated his ministry, especially in and from the county of Pembrokeshire. It is significant for two reasons.

First, the text brings together the two conscious elements of a sinner’s conversion: “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,” More often than not, the New Testament speaks of the sinner’s conversion synecdochally. That is to say, by means of either repentance or faith, when in fact the sinner’s consciousness of converting to Christ includes both repentance and faith. To quote Professor John Murray (1898–1975), the convert to Christ possesses “a believing repentance and a penitent faith.” Following the apostle Paul, Dr Trumper was keen to stress both repentance and faith.

Second, he may well have chosen Acts 20:21 because of the context in which the apostle Paul mentions repentance and faith. *En route* to Jerusalem in haste for the Day of Pentecost, Paul called from Miletus to Ephesus for the Elders to come the forty or so miles south. On their arrival, he reminded them of the work he had undertaken in their presence:

I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since Dr Trumper was conscious of the plan to return his remains to the place of his most industrious and blessed evangelistic and pastoral ministry, it is not difficult to see why the apostle’s words would have had such appeal for him. They gave expression to his pastoral ministry and afforded him opportunity to speak lastingly to visitors to his grave of the call of the gospel he preached in life and now in death.

Given the inscribed text, the question arises as to whether we each have turned personally to God in repentance and are resting entirely in Christ for our salvation. The New Testament offer us this encouragement to do so: “Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (e.g., Acts 2:21).