
GENESIS
IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

Genesis 21:1-7

21 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did
to Sarah as he promised. [2] And Sarah conceived and bore
Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had
spoken to him. [3] Abraham called the name of his son who was
born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. [4] And Abraham
circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God
had commanded him. [5] And Sarah said, “God has made
laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” [7] And
she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would
nurse children? Yet I have born him a son in his old age.”

Genesis 21:8-11

[8] And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a
great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. [9] But Sarah saw the
son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham,
laughing. [10] So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman
with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir
with my son Isaac.” [11] And the thing was very displeasing to
Abraham on account of his son.

1. Youthful, Idyllic Optimism
2. Control
3. Self-protection
4. Despair



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Genesis 21:12-14

[12] But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the
boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to
do, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be
named. [13] And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman
also, because he is your offspring.” [14] So Abraham rose early in the
morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar,
putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away.
And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Genesis 21:15-16

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under
one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a
good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let
me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite
him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

Genesis 21:17-19

17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called
to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar?
Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Up!
Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make
him into a great nation.” 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw
a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and
gave the boy a drink.

Genesis 21:20-21

[20] And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. [21] He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

What if Ishmael had died?

Romans 8:22-28

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies…

26 … the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do no know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him…

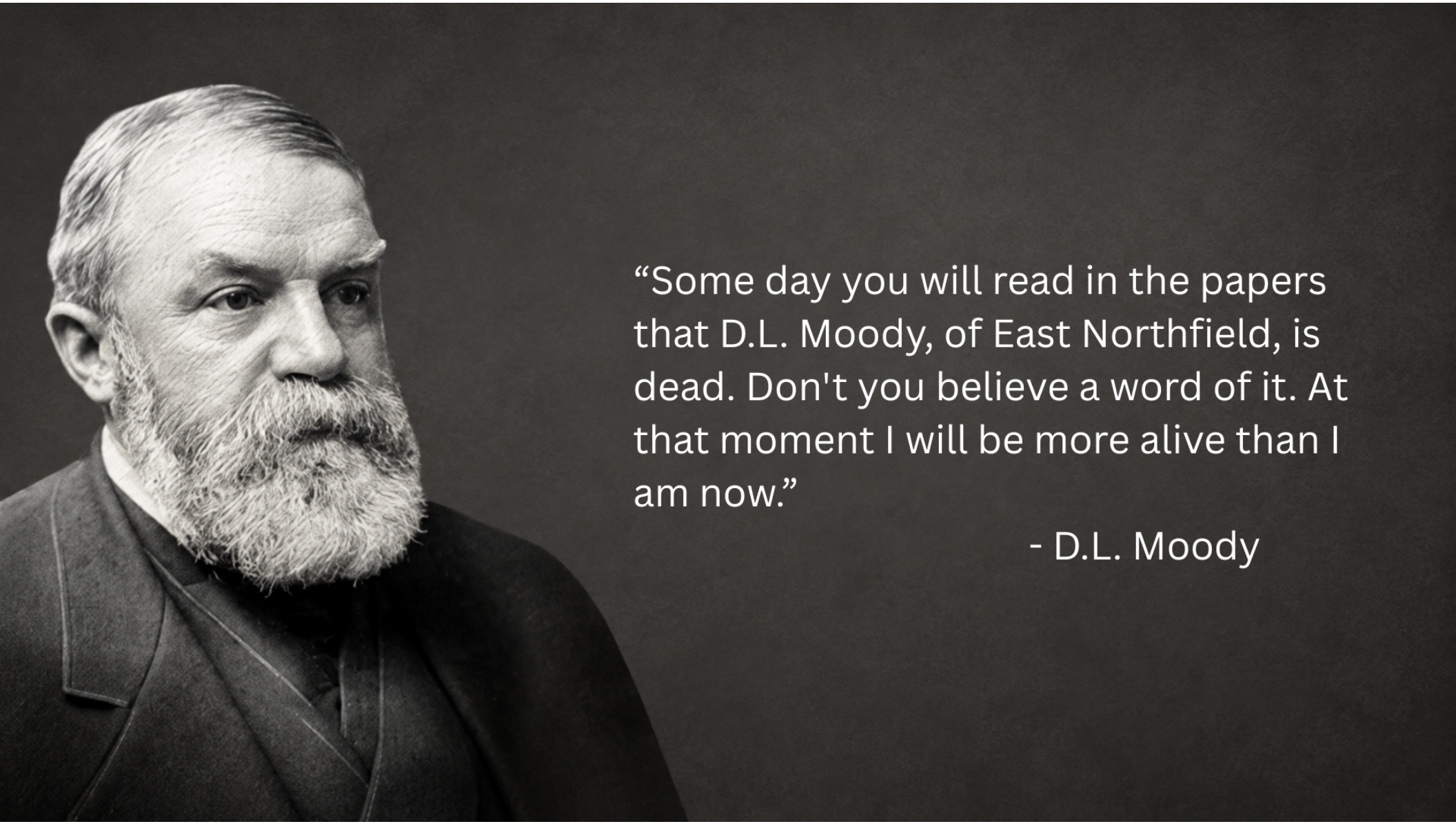
Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then shall we say in response to these things? If
God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare
his own Son, but gave him up for us all–how will he not also,
along with him, graciously give us all things?

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any
powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that
is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So what is there to do?




“Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I will be more alive than I am now.”
- D.L. Moody

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

[7] So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing
greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a
messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming
conceited. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it
should leave me. [9] But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all
the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may
rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with
weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For
when I am weak, then I am strong.



1. Youthful, Idyllic Optimism
2. Control
3. Self-protection
4. Despair of our own efforts
4. Trust within uncertainty