

Christian Funeral and Burial

Some of the biggest theological errors enter into people's minds at the time of a death of a loved one and in the funeral service. As a pastor funerals are not the time to "correct" an incorrect understanding of what is going on. It is best to consider what the scriptures say about death, heaven, the resurrection, and eternal life apart from the emotion of losing a loved one.

In the word of God you will find very little about "going to heaven" as it is understood in a present day American context. According to the scriptures death occurs when the **soul** of a person leaves the **body** of a person. Death is a bad thing according to the word of God.

Genesis 2:17 *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Death can be a merciful thing, but death in and of itself is NOT GOOD. The only reason we can speak about death in any type of a positive way is because of what Jesus has done.

Focus of a Christian Funeral and Burial

1. The work of Christ in the life of the one who has died.
2. The comfort of Christ for those who mourn with hope.
3. A witness to the grace of Christ for all people.

Funeral Service

1. The focus is on baptism and what is given in baptism not the works of the one who died.
Pg. 278
2. The focus is on the Resurrection not on the intermediate state aka heaven.
Pg. 281

A funeral is NOT about the good works of a person. One can talk about finishing one's life in faith but the focus needs to remain on Jesus and what he has done.

A funeral does nothing for the person who had died they seek to bring comfort and hope to those who are still alive.