

Wedding And Funeral Sermons

Edited by David A. Padfield



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Introduction

One of the most difficult things for a young preacher to do is to preach his first funeral sermon. Most of us receive little warning before any funeral, usually only a matter of hours. I preached my first funeral when I was 17 years old. In the few hours I had available before the funeral I tried to put together a few thoughts for the benefit of the family. To the best of my knowledge, I had only attended two funerals in my life before I was asked to preach one!

My first wedding ceremony was a bit easier—I had a whole week to prepare for it, and I was another year older! I also benefited from the fact I had attended several weddings while growing up. Though preached by different men, most of the sermons sounded the same.

It is my sincere desire that this little book of sermons will help faithful men as they endeavor to preach the gospel. I do not think any of the writers in this book would claim originality for any of the lessons contained herein.

While editing these sermons for publication I tried to keep the author's style intact—this is why you will find several different translations of the Bible used in this book. You will notice that the wedding outlines do not include the traditional vows; you can find those in the written manuscripts.

There are several types of funerals included here which I have never had to preach, such as Bruce Taylor's sermon for a young man who took his own life, or Wayne Greeson's sermon for a stillborn child.

David A. Padfield

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Wedding Ceremony by David A. Padfield

We are gathered here in the presence of God to witness the exchanging of vows that will bind this couple together in the covenant relationship of marriage. When this ceremony has ended, they will leave this place as husband and wife for the very first time, having been joined together by the God of heaven.

Who gives this daughter in marriage?

(Father of bride) "Her mother and I."

Of the three institutions ordained of God (the home, the church and the state), the home is the oldest. Since it had its origin with God, it is honorable.

Moses tells the story in the second and third chapters of Genesis. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and passed all of the animals of the creation by him to see what he would name them. When Adam was finished, it was evident that for every beast of the field and every fowl of the air there was a mate. But Adam was alone. God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam and from his side God took a rib and created the first woman, Eve. Adam said "this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man." Then God said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:23-24).

You will notice that Eve was made from the rib of Adam. She was not taken from his head that she should rule over him, nor from his foot that he should walk over her. She was taken from his side, near his heart, that hand in hand they could go together through out life.

Christ honored the institution of marriage by performing His very first miracle at joyous wedding feast in Cana of Galilee (John 2).

The apostle Paul tells us that marriage is honorable in all (Heb. 13:4).

The institution of marriage is not a casual one. Since we live in an age where so many people have little or no respect for marriage, we need to constantly reassert that God ordained marriage for our good. So holy is this relationship that Paul likened it to Christ and His church.

Let us read from Ephesians 5, verses 22 through 33: "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and he is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in

particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

In the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, the Pharisees questioned Jesus about the marriage relationship. They wanted to know whether marriage was an ambiguous relationship, one subject to dissolution by the whim of either party, or was it a permanent relationship, where couples would be bound together for life.

They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” Jesus explained that God ordained marriage and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Since God had joined them together, it must be a permanent bond.

They then asked, “Why then did Moses command a certificate of divorce?” Jesus responded by saying, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.” (Name of groom) and (name of bride) it is still “not so” today. God hates divorce! Do you both understand this? (Wait for response).

The marriage yoke is so binding that God has only allowed one reason for a person to put away his spouse, that being sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9).

When trouble comes, as it often does, divorce is not an option.

The time might come when some of your friends who are present here today would urge you to get a divorce. These witnesses may forget the vows you make this day, but God will not forget them. He will hold you to them as long as you both shall live!

According to the laws of this State, there are several things necessary to constitute a marriage. A license must be obtained from the State and vows must be exchanged in a civil ceremony. Witnesses must sign the legal papers, and records must be made in proper office. But marriage is far more than a piece of paper or ring of gold. Marriage involves a new relationship and many new responsibilities.

(Name of groom), when you leave this building, you will be the head of a new home, you will be the provider for (name of bride), and her protector. You must not only give your first loyalty to her, but also give here honor. Though you will be the head of the house, you would be foolish not to seek her council.

(Name of bride), when you leave here today, you will be the wife of this young man. You must be in submission to him, and be his comforter throughout life. Solomon said, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Eccl. 4:9-11).

(Name of groom) will you have this woman to be your wedded wife? Will you love, honor, cherish and keep her as long as you both shall live?

(Name of bride) will you take this man to be your wedded husband? Will you love, honor and obey him as long as you live?

(Looking at groom) Is there a ring? Please place it upon her ring finger.

The ring has long been the emblem of eternity, symbolizing the endurance of the covenant made this day.

(Name of groom) will you please repeat after me?

“I (name of groom) take thee (name of bride) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till in death we part, and with this ring, I thee wed, and pledge my faithfulness.”

(Name of bride) Is there another ring? Please place it upon his ring finger.

Let this ring serve as a perpetual reminder of the love you share this day.

“I (name of bride) take thee (name of groom) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till in death we part, and with this ring, I thee wed, and pledge my faithfulness.”

Let us go to God in prayer. O, Almighty God, thou who art the giver of all good things, we beseech Thee to pour out Your richest blessings upon this couple who have here vowed their lives to each other. Please let them be happy in each other’s companionship, and let their quiver of children be full. Please grant them the years to see their children grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let all those present here today remember Your great love for us. In Christ, our Redeemer’s name. Amen.

Forasmuch as you two have consented together to be married, and have publicly declared it before God and these witnesses by the giving and exchanging of rings ... Now by the power vested in me by this State ... I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

From this day forward you will be one in mind, one in heart, and by the grace of God, one in eternal destiny. Believing it’s God who truly joins a couple together in marriage, let no man put it asunder.

You may now kiss your bride.

I now present unto you Mr. & Mrs. (last name of groom). ✠

Wedding Ceremony by Wayne Greeson

Dear friends, out of affection for (name of groom) and (name of bride) we have gathered together to witness and bless their mutual vows which will unite them together in marriage. Who gives this woman to this man?

(Father of the bride: "Her mother and I.")

To this moment, (name of groom) and (name of bride), bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure to share with one another. They bring the dreams which bind them together. They bring that personality and spirit which is uniquely their own, out of which will grow the reality of their life together. Most importantly, (name of groom) and (name of bride) have come here today out of respect for God and in obedience to His command that has been from the beginning:

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the Man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.' So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the Man, and he slept; then He took one of the ribs, and closed up the flesh at the place. And the Lord God fashioned into a Woman the rib which He had taken from the Man and brought her to the Man. And the Man said, 'This is now bone of bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. For this cause, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.'" (Gen. 2:18-24).

(Name of groom) and (name of bride), your love for each other should be an Eternal Triangle. God is at the apex and you, as man and woman, are at the base of the triangle. When both of you are joined together with God at the top, then you will never be separated from each other at the bottom.

Your marriage should be the union of two lives – two hearts that beat as one – so welded together that they walk together; they work together; they bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys. I want to remind you to be friendly, loving and tenderhearted, and forbearing one another in love. Remember the vows you are about to take are as binding in adversity as in prosperity and that these vows are to be broken only by death.

As marriage is a joyful privilege, it is also a serious responsibility. The apostle Paul so beautifully pictured for us the responsibilities God has given husbands and wives. Paul wrote:

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, he Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ...So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself ...Nevertheless, let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." (Eph. 5:22-33).

I want both of you to remember the great responsibilities you have: love and submission. How serious and magnificent are these qualities. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, gave us the perfect example of love and submission.

(Name of groom), Christ loved the church. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus showed the greatest love to the church by the sacrifice of His own life. He shed His precious blood for the church to demonstrate how deep and abiding His love was and to leave us the greatest example of love this world has ever known. (Name of groom), follow the example of Christ. Consider (name of bride) your closest friend and love her even to the sacrifice of your wants, desires and your very life.

(Name of bride), Christ gave us the perfect example of submission. Paul wrote, "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:5-8).

(Name of bride), the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, humbled Himself and became submissive for our sake. And just as you would obey Jesus, submit to (name of groom) as your husband.

Please join your hands.

Will you, (name of groom), take (name of bride) to be your lawful and wedded wife, to love (name of bride) as yourself? Do you promise to comfort her, honor and keep her, and forsaking all others cleave only to her, so long as you both shall live?

(Groom) "I do."

Will you, (name of bride) take (name of groom) to be your lawful and wedded husband, to obey (name of groom) as you would the Lord? Do you promise to love him, honor and keep him, and forsaking all others cleave only to him, until death do you part?

(Bride) "I do."

I will ask you then to seal the vows you have just made by the giving and receiving of rings. For generations, rings have been used as tokens of pledges made in good faith and as seals of sacred vows honorably declared. In the giving and receiving of these rings you pledge yourselves one to the other to discharge fully and faithfully those duties and obligations which belong to each other in view of the state you are now entering. Just as the circle of the ring symbolizes the eternal nature of this sacred union you are now forming, so may the near indestructible nature of the precious metal out of which it is formed symbolize the everlasting quality of your devotion and love.

Let these rings mark the beginning of a long journey together filled with wonder, surprises, laughter, tears, celebration and joy. Our prayer is that your love and happiness will be as unending as the rings you give. May these rings glow in the reflection of the warmth and the love which flow through the wearers today. May these rings be a remembrance of your love in the years to come. Let these rings remind you of this happy hour and our prayer is that you will be as happy then as you are now.

(Name of groom), as you place the ring on (name of bride)'s finger, please repeat after me:

“With this ring, I thee wed. I take thee, (name of bride), to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, so long as we both shall live.”

(Name of bride), as you place the ring on (name of groom)’s finger, please repeat after me:

“With this ring, I thee wed. I take thee, (name of groom), to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, so long as we both shall live.”

Let us pray. Dear Lord, Almighty, Creator of all that we are and all that surrounds us, we humbly come before Your throne of grace bringing prayer this day. We thank you, dear Lord, for all the wonderful gifts You have given us. We are thankful for the grace and mercy You have given us, shown by the sending of your own dear Son, Jesus Christ, for the incomparable salvation to all those who obey Him.

We thank you now for the blessed gift of marriage. Through marriage we may learn love, sharing and commitment. As we came together this evening, (name of groom) and (name of bride) came here with separate paths and separate lives. Now we have heard and witnessed their vows and devotion to each other. We have seen them leave their respective homes and families, as you commanded from the beginning, and merge their separate paths and separate lives into one path and one life.

Dear Lord, be with (name of groom) and (name of bride) and bless their lives together. Be with them as they devote their lives to each other. May they spend many years in the love they have for each other.

As (name of groom) and (name of bride) live and grow together, may they learn to love and grow closer as the years pass than they feel at this moment. Let them remember the vows they have made this day whenever they face problems and difficulties.

Let each of us here learn from (name of groom) and (name of bride), the depth of the love we should have for each other, the devotion, tenderness and concern we should express, and the unity we should have united to you and to each other in the pure and peaceable love from above.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A new commandment Christ gave us, “That you love one another as I have loved you.” “Love suffers long, and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up. Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ... (for love is of God) ... And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (John 15:12; 1 Cor. 13:4-13).

Having pledged your faith in and your love towards one another, and having sealed your solemn vows by the giving and receiving of rings, and now according to the laws of this land in which we live, and by my authority as a minister of the Gospel, I now pronounce you husband and wife, and what God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

You may now kiss the Bride.

I now present Mr. & Mrs. (last name of groom). ✎

Wedding Ceremony by James Fox

Friends and relatives, we have assembled here in the presence of God and these witnesses to unite this man and this woman in marriage.

In the very first verse of the Bible we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The Bible teaches that on the first day of creation God made light: day and night. On the second day He made the firmament: divided the water above and below. On the third day He made dry land: dividing the waters, calling them seas and vegetation. He then made the sun, moon and stars on the fourth day. On the fifth day God made animal life: fish and fowl. On the sixth day He made beasts, creeping things and man.

The Bible says that everything God made was very good (Gen. 1:26). Then on the seventh day God rested from all the work which He created and made (Gen. 2:2,3).

Genesis 2:7 says, "the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul." In verse 18 God said, "it is not good that man should be alone: I will make a help meet for him."

Then God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam. From Adam's side He removed a rib and made the woman, and brought her unto the man. Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man." Then God said that "a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:23,24).

Thus, we have on record the establishment of God's first institution, the home, and it is for the purpose of establishing and making a home that we have come together today.

God had three purposes in establishing the marriage relationship. First, for the reproduction of the human race (Gen. 1:28). Second, to foster love and attachment between husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-25). Third, to satisfy the sexual desire. To give this desire virtuous and honorable satisfaction, God ordained marriage (Heb. 13:4).

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul sets forth the true meaning of love: "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." Then in verse 13, Paul says, "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The marriage relationship is honorable, having been instituted by Almighty God. It is a life-long contract. To be joined in such a union as this, the kind of love described by Paul is mandatory. It is the kind of love that Ruth had for her mother-in-law, Naomi, when she said, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

(Ruth 1:16). You both must have this same attitude, realizing that you both must follow the God of heaven.

The first marriage set the pattern for all the sons and daughters of Adam. Be it remembered that Adam was first created, then Eve.

The husband is, therefore, the head, the provider, and the protector in the family. Let us also remember that Eve was made for Adam himself. She was not taken from his foot that he might trample upon her. She was not taken from his head, so as to rule over him. She was taken from his side to stand by him in all that life offers. She was taken from under his arm that he might protect and provide for her. She was taken from near his heart that he should love and cherish her as his own body.

God's pattern for marriage included one man and one woman united as husband and wife until death. When Jesus was questioned about the possible exceptions to this rule, He replied: "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (Mt. 19:8,9).

However, such a possibility is far removed if true love is shared by the marriage partners. When beauty fades from the cheeks and luster from the eyes, when wrinkles appear and steps become harder to make, true love will have increased with the passing of time and physical beauty.

If either of you, or anyone present, know any just cause as to why this marriage should not take place, I charge you to make it known at this time.

(Addressing the couple:) Will you please turn, face each other, and join right hands?

(Name of groom), do you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

(Name of bride), do you take this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy state of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(Name of groom), please repeat after me, "I, (name of groom) take thee (name of bride) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance."

(Name of bride), please repeat after me, "I, (name of bride) take thee (name of groom) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance."

{If a double ring ceremony} (Name of groom) and (name of bride) let the precious metal of these rings remind you of the preciousness of the vows you take this day. Let the unending circle of the rings remind you of the undying love you pledge to each other.

(Name of groom), place this ring on the third finger of your bride's left hand and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods, I thee endow, my name, my wealth, my life, my all, until death do us part."

(Name of bride), place this ring on the third finger of your his left hand and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods, I thee endow, my wealth, my life, my all, until death do us part."

For as much as (Name of groom) and (name of bride) have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their love to each other and have declared the same by the giving and receiving of a ring, and by authority invested in me by the laws of this State, and by the higher power of God, I now pronounce you husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder. ♪

Wedding Ceremony by Ney Rieber

We have come together today to witness with God, the joining of (Her Name) and (His Name) in the divine institution of marriage.

Marriage was ordained by our Heavenly Father in the Garden of Eden. Most of the blessings of Eden have long ago been lost to the world. Only marriage has come down to us. Ideally, in marriage, we find a bit of Heaven on earth. Jesus honored marriage by His presence at the Marriage feast in Cana of Galilee. There He performed His first miracle. Marriage was honored by the apostle Paul who declared it to be honorable in all.

Because of the divine origin and purpose of marriage, it is not to be entered into thoughtlessly nor lightly. Upon this holy relationship, depends your happiness in this life and in that which is to come. As you as a couple draw closer to God, you will in turn draw closer to each other; therefore, to have a truly happy marriage, you must both be devoted to growing closer to your Heavenly Father. Your greatest responsibility in this relationship is to encourage your mate to the service of God.

Will you two, who have chosen each other as life companions, now join right hands?

Do you (Her Name), and you (His Name), each pledge yourselves to the other as kind, faithful, affectionate, tender and true companions until death do you part? (Both say, "I do.")

At this point, I would remind you that you are making vows. You are making vows which cannot be broken with impunity. They are vows which are to be sacred to you because they are sacred to God. God expects you to keep these vows for your entire life.

Will you (His Name), have (Her Name) to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy relationship of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep thee only unto her, so long as ye shall both live? (He says, "I will.")

(Her Name), will you have (His Name) to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy relationship of matrimony? Wilt thou pledge to love him, to honor him, to obey him, to comfort him, and keep

him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live? (She says, "I will.")

Do you have rings to exchange?

(His Name), place the ring on (Her Name) finger.

Repeat after me:

I, (His Name), take thee, (Her Name), to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, I give thee my troth.

(Her Name), place the ring on (His Name) finger.

Repeat after me:

I, (Her Name), take thee (His Name), to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health to love and to cherish, till death do us part, I give the my troth.

By virtue of the Word of God, by the authority of God and the laws of this state, I pronounce you husband and wife.

What God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

You may now kiss the Bride. ✨

Wedding Outline by Harry Lewis

“What God Joins Together”

Introduction

- I. Marriage is approved of God (Gen. 2:18)
- II. God Himself joins in marriage (Matt. 19:6)
- III. God hates “putting away” (Mal. 2:16)

Discussion

- I. God Joins Only Those Authorized To Marry**
 - A. One male and one female
 - B. Those having never been married
 - C. Those who have lost a mate through death (Rom. 7:1,2)
 - D. The innocent party from a marriage that ended in divorce due to adultery (Matt. 19:6-9)

- II. Some Marriages, Then, Are Not Approved**
 - A. Neh. 13:23-30
 - B. I Cor. 7:39 “Only in the Lord”?
 - C. Matt. 19:9; Luke 16:18 “Whoso marrieth her...”

- III. The Marriage Approved Of God**
 - A. All those who have the right to marry (1 Cor. 7:1-2)
 - B. All in which the wife submits (Eph. 5:22)
 - C. All in which the husband loves his wife (Eph. 5:25)
 - D. All in which the husband is the head (Eph. 5:23)
 - E. All in which the wife reverences her husband (Eph. 5:33)
 - F. All that are “in the Lord” (1 Cor. 7:39)

Conclusion

- I. Marriages which please God should please all
- II. Those not pleasing to God wreak havoc
- III. Be sure and consult the Book of God
- IV. We will now pray that all will be well ☺

Wedding Outline by Brian Sullivan

Introduction

- I. Marriage is not to be entered into lightly.
- II. Though many of us have come to hear this young couple exchange their vows today, it would be good for each of us to reflect on our own situation as well.
- III. May these thoughts help not only (name of groom) and (name of bride), but also each one of us.

Discussion

I. Marriage Is Approved And Legislated By God

- A. Jesus, when confronted by questions about divorce (Matthew 19:8), pointed back to “the beginning.”
- B. The first marriage, and it is a marriage, is a model for all time.
- C. Several important factors are brought out:
 1. God provided “woman” as the “help meet” for man.
 2. God only brought one woman to the man, revealing it was His intention for one man and one woman to be united in marriage.
 3. The Holy Spirit uses the phrase: “the man and his wife.”
 4. It is God who declares that all apron strings are to be cut. This couple is the beginning of a new home.
 5. They were together and not ashamed.

II. Marriage Makes Demands On Each Partner

- A. The need to be faithful to God.
 1. Matt. 6:33 “seek ye first the kingdom of God”.
 2. Marriage does not change this. Let this be a combined priority in your marriage. Help each other accomplish that goal.
- B. You have a need to be faithful to each other.
 1. You are to love one another above all others.
 2. Must leave father and mother, and cleave to mate.
 3. A new family unit, not an extension of an older one.
 4. To provide for one another’s needs within the framework of your marriage (1 Cor. 7:1-4).
- C. Need to be faithful in fulfilling other duties placed upon you.
 1. To your children (when they are born) to care for, feed and discipline, but especially to “raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
 2. To the community in which you live. To be a good example. To demonstrate by your life that serving and pleasing God is both possible and practical.

III. Marriage Has Roles For You

- A. The bride today has the responsibility of being the help meet for this young man.
 - 1. You have the potential to help develop him into the very best husband anyone could ever desire to have.
 - 2. It will call for submission to God's order for the home.
 - a) Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Here is God's divine order:
 - (1) Husband ... head of the wife.
 - (2) Wife ... subject to husband.
 - 3. Both of you are responsible and accountable to God.
- B. The husband is to love his wife even as Christ did the church, and died for it. The husband should be willing to love his wife to the very same extent.

IV. You Can Enjoy The Privileges Of Marriage

- A. Being able to satisfy one another's physical desires within a permitted relationship: marriage (Gen. 2:25).
 - 1. No shame is here.
 - 2. The same God who instilled it within man, supplied the approved place for it to be exercised.
- B. There are two of you to cope with life. You can double life's pleasures and half its problems.
- C. Together, you will be able to help one another develop more love toward the other.

Conclusion

- I. Do not expect instant success in every aspect of your newly formed marriage.
- II. Rather, with patience, love and prayer you can cause your vows to be renewed day by day, and your marriage will blossom into that which God intended for it to be.
- III. You hold within your hands and hearts the ability to make it so.
- IV. Let us pray before the exchanging of vows. ✠

Wedding Outline by Wayne Walker

“God’s Will For Marriage” (Jeremiah 29:6)

It is clear God desire for men and women to marry. When the children of Israel went into captivity, they were instructed by the Lord to “Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands so that they might bear sons and daughters – that you may be increased there, and not diminished.”

I. The Institution of Marriage is found in Genesis 2:24

- A. A man shall leave his father and mother – to start a new family unit.
- B. He should be joined to his wife – this shows God’s intent – that there should be one man and one woman for life in marriage.
- C. The original word here means to “stick like glue.”
- D. The two shall become one flesh. Here is unity of heart, mind, purpose and life.
 - 1. Paul speaks of this type of unity in 1 Corinthians 7:3,4.
 - 2. It is the complete giving of self by each one to the other.
- E. Marriage fulfills the need for procreation (Genesis 1:28).
- F. Marriage fulfills the need for companionship (Genesis 2:18).

II. Jesus’ Teaching on Marriage is found in Matthew 19:6,9

- A. Let not man separate what God has joined together.
- B. Neither husband, wife nor civil authority can supersede God’s law.
- C. For Christians, divorce is never a solution.

III. Paul’s Instructions for Marriage are found in Ephesians 5:22-28

- A. Just as one enters the church by obeying the gospel, you will enter marriage by obeying the laws of God and of society.
- B. Just as we must have faith in Christ, you trust and love one another.
- C. Just as we must repent, you must separate from all others.
- D. Just as we must confess Christ, you must confess your commitment.
- E. Just as we must be joined to Christ in baptism, you will be joined to one another by this simple ceremony.
- F. Just as we must be faithful to Christ, you must be faithful to each other.
- G. Just as Christ is the head of the church, the husband is the head of the wife.
- H. As the church is subject to Christ, the wife is to be to her husband.
- I. As the church is the only place where God’s children are found, marriage is the relationship where children should be conceived.

IV. Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is Honorable in all”

Wedding Outline by David V. Hurst

“And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord” (Hosea 2:19,20). It is appropriate to compare God’s promise of betrothal to His people to that we share in marriage.

I. I Will Betroth Thee Forever

- A. Marriage is for life (Gen. 2:18-24)
- B. It is a “cleaving” and a the becoming of “one flesh” (Matt. 19:3-9)

II. I Will Betroth Thee Unto Righteousness

- A. Promise of the “golden rule”
- B. Promise to live in proper roles (Eph. 5:23-33)
- C. Husband: provider, protector, love, cherish
- D. Wife: love, obey, dedicate to family (Cf. Prov. 31:10-31)

III. I Will Betroth Thee In Judgment

- A. Qualities we want, have seen in one another
- B. Used judgment in picking a mate who would be a good parent
- C. Seen in the companionship we need in life
- D. Promise to continue in judgment with each other
- E. Do those things which strengthen the marriage
- F. Promise to put God first in everything
- G. Let His word govern your marriage

IV. I Will Betroth Thee In Lovingkindness

- A. Love does what is in the best interest of the object it loves
- B. The need for this in new marriages is especially great
- C. 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Eph. 4:32

V. I Will Betroth Thee In Mercies

- A. Will not let the sun go down on wrath
- B. Will never blame your spouse for your failures
- C. Will not seek vengeance (Rom. 12:19), but offer compassion

VI. I Will Betroth Thee In Faithfulness

- A. Trust is a key ingredient to a successful marriage
- B. The vows you make and the love you promise is threaded with trust
- C. The husband’s “I do”: He is offering his heart, name, income, children and everything that makes him happy
- D. The wife’s “I do”: She is trusting to subject herself, trusting he will provide, protect, honor and exalt her (1 Peter 3:7; Prov. 31:26)

If your marriage does these things, you will live a life of learning and knowing one another that will bring you happiness all the days of your life. If you betroth one another in these ways, yours will be a union of heart and soul that will challenge you all the days you share together. This kind of betrothal will make your marriage one of joy, pleasure and contentment. Are you ready for that kind of commitment to one another? ✨

Wedding Outline by Gary L. Fiscus

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

We are gathered here in the presence of these friends and these relatives to unite these two in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony. This should be a time of rejoicing to see these two enter into the institution called marriage.

Since marriage is held in low esteem by many in our society today, we need to pause and consider a few facts about it:

- I. Marriage Was Instituted By God**
A. Gen. 2:18-24; Eph. 5:31; 1 Cor. 7:2-3; Pro. 18:22; Heb. 13:4
- II. Marriage Is For Life**
A. Romans 7:2-3; Matthew 19:1-9
- III. Marriage Unites The Man And Woman As One**
A. Matthew 19:5-6; Ephesians 5:31
- IV. Mutual Love Must Be Expressed**
A. Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4-5
- V. The Husband Is The Head Of The Wife**
A. Ephesians 5:23
- VI. The Husband Must Provide For His Wife**
A. Timothy 5:8

Will you (name of groom) in the presence of these friends, and God, promise to love, honor and cherish this woman? Will you promise to provide for her in sickness and in health? Will you promise to be true to her, forsaking all others and cleave unto her alone as long as you both shall live? Will you take her to be your wedded wife? (Same for Bride).

Since it is your mutual desire to be married, will you repeat after me the marriage vows? (Turn and face each other).

(Name), because I have grown to love you so much, I am asking you to share my life and be my (wife/husband). You have become the most important part of my life. I look to you for friendship, love and comfort, and I look forward to being your friend, lover, pillar and strength. I pledge to you patience, kindness, loyalty and unfailing love - during the good times as well as the bad. And when conflict arises, I am confident that the strength of our commitment will overcome it through communication, mutual trust and love. (Name), I am looking forward to our life of love together. May it endure forever. With this ring, I thee wed. (Repeat for Bride).

For as much then as (name of groom) and (name of bride) have consented together in holy wedlock and pledge your undying love and devotion to each other, I therefore as a minister of the gospel and by the authority of this State pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I present unto you Mr. & Mrs. (groom's last name). ✨

Funeral Sermon by David A. Padfield

Funeral for a Non-Christian

There is not a single thing we can say or do here today that would have any effect upon the destiny of (name of deceased). We simply leave all such matters in the hand of a God who knoweth and doeth all things well.

After Stephen had been put to death for the cause of our Lord, the brethren lamented his death (Acts 8:2). It's not wrong to sorrow. But Christians must not sorrow like those who have no hope (1 Thes. 4:13).

Our deeds will follow us, even in death (Rev. 14:13). The godly woman named Dorcus (Acts 9:36-40) was remembered by what she left behind. While our minds are centered upon death, I would like for you to ask yourself, "What will I leave behind at my death?"

I would suggest first of all that you will leave every worldly possession behind. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we will carry nothing out (1 Tim. 6:6-10). Since we can take nothing with us, why should we get so wrapped up with "things." Jesus said, "If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26). If you gained the whole world for your own, what would you really have? Nothing that would be of any value in eternity.

In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus asked us to count the cost of serving Him. While there are many costs associated with being a Christian, there is also a price to be paid for disobedience. Christ used the example of one king going to make war with another king. He said the one with 10,000 soldiers should consider whether he is able to wage war against the enemy with 20,000. For those who refuse to obey God, they are the ones with 10,000 going to make war against Jehovah! They shall not be able to stand.

In the hour of death, you will also leave your spouse behind. What will they have left? Pictures and memories. Don't wait till your spouse is sick or dying to express your love. Many flowers have been sent here today as an expression of sympathy, and to let the family know that our thoughts are with them even in death. Your wife would appreciate flowers now more than at her death. A few words of kindness now will mean far more than rivers of tears shed by a tombstone. Solomon admonished his son to "rejoice in the wife of his youth" (Proverbs 5:18). Let us not wait till it's too late to express our love to our mate.

We will also leave our children behind. The Psalmist declares that "Children are a heritage from the Lord" (Psa. 127:3). What are you going to leave your kids? Money? There are a lot of things money just can't buy.

On Jan. 28, 1986, Christa McAuliffe died aboard the space shuttle "Challenger". Her friends had purchased a \$1 million life insurance policy from Lloyd's of London. But one million dollars could not dry a single tear from her children's eyes. Money can not buy your children new parents who love them.

The most valuable thing you can give your children is your time. Psalms 90, the prayer of Moses the man of God, bids us to "number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." We need to do that numbering when our children are young. It will be too late when they leave home for good.

All of your friends will also be left behind. What will they think when they read your obituary in the paper? Will they be surprised you were a Christian? Will the name of the church be harmed? Romans 14:7-8 tells us that none of us live to ourselves, and no one dies to himself. Our actions have a great deal of bearing upon other people.

One of my favorite songs says that,

*"We are the only Bible the careless world will read,
We are the sinners gospel, we are the scoffers creed;
We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word,
What if the type is crooked, what if the print is blurred?"*

What do you want the preacher to say at your funeral? What do you want him to say to your family? Will he be able to comfort them with the hope of a future reunion in that glorious abode of the soul? Like Joshua of old, I know not what course others might take, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:14,15).

As the wise king Solomon reflected on his life, he said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." (Eccl. 12:13,14). ✪

Funeral Sermon by Wayne Greeson

Funeral for a Stillborn Child

We have come together this morning to lay to rest in the earth the tiny body of the infant of (name of mother and father).

Why are we here? We do not come together to remember that child we lay to rest. Usually at funerals, the purpose of coming together beside the grave of the one who has died is to remember their life and recollect how they have touched us.

This child has faced death before the time of (his/her) birth. We did not have the opportunity to witness the joy and privilege of knowing this gift from God. We will never see (him/her) wrapped in (his/her) mother's arms or playing catch with (his/her) father. We will never see this child grow up.

Sadly, our world has placed little value upon children before they are born. Our government has declared that before birth children have no rights, not even the right to live! Daily, thousands of children lose their lives, not because of illness or accident, but because their mothers deliberately remove their own children from their bodies. Those unwanted, defenseless children do not even have the privilege of a funeral, a burial and a grave, but are treated as garbage.

We come together to declare to the world, this child that we bury today was a human being. This child was desperately wanted and loved by (his/her) parents.

The Bible calls those in the womb "children." (Gen. 25:22; 38:27; Eccl. 11:5; Lk. 1:36,44). "Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is her reward." (Psa. 127:3).

Psalms 139, verses 13 through 15 say, "For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... My frame was not hidden from Thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lower parts of the earth."

If only there were more fathers, like (name of father), who would recognize how precious a little (boy/girl) is. If only there were more mothers, like (name of mother), who would desire children and understand that they are a gift from God.

We come together to comfort this child's parents. We cannot shed tears over a child we never had the chance to know. But, we can shed tears with (his/her) parents.

The Bible teaches us to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). Let each of us comfort (father) and (mother) as we can. Let us encourage them. Let us pray for them in their time of sorrow.

What will we learn from the death of this child?

King David in the Old Testament faced the tragic grief of having a new born infant become very sick unto death. "...David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them" (2 Samuel 12:16-17).

After seven days of tears, prayers and fasting, the child died. When David found out that the child was dead “he arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped...” (2 Samuel 12:20).

His servants did not understand his sudden change at the death of the child. Before the child died, David had mourned. When the child died, David stopped mourning. David replied, “... 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 12:23).

As David, we have no need to cry for this child. David recognized that those that die as children are without sin and that their spirits return to the Father.

Likewise, we have no doubt about the destiny of the spirit of this pure and innocent child whose body we bury here. (His/her) body we will place in the earth, but (his/her) spirit has returned to God who gave it!

We can be happy that this child is now with the Father. But, can you say what David said? David said of his dead child, “I shall go to him.”

David believed that his life before God was such that when he died, he would be where his child was. The spirit of the child we are burying is with the Father.

Will you ever see this child again? Will you ever be with this child? Is your life such that you can say about this child, “I shall go to (him/her)”?

Do not let the death of this child be in vain. Listen to (his/her) voice from beyond the grave: “Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa, please come where I am. I do so want to meet and talk with you.” ✨

Funeral Sermon by David V. Hurst

“Better Is The Day Of Death”

Ecclesiastes 7:2 says, “It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.”

There are many occasions of life that draw people together. But none affect us more than coming together in the “house of mourning” to share our tears. Our purpose this day is not to determine the fate of our loved one departed, but to remember what he was to each of us. We want to remember him and the treasured times we drew from him in his love, strength and encouragement. In this, we as his friends also extend to the family love, sympathy and compassion. We weep with them in their grief.

In this grief, we turn to the only place that we can find genuine comfort, our God. There is no greater comfort than that which is found in Him. We are reminded of His words, “better is the day of death, than the day of birth” (Eccl. 7:14). Especially now, we search for the explanation of the “preacher’s” words.

We are always so happy when we hear the news of a new birth. There is no doubt it is an occasion of great excitement. There are so many plans to make and so many blessings to be thankful for. There is the choosing of a name, the informing of our relatives, and the excitement of bringing the child home. Joys abound in emotional bliss.

Ironically, with birth also comes the stinging reality that this new life is coming into a world of pain and suffering. It is a world in which the lessons taught are through labor, toil and sorrow. The Psalmist said, “Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until evening” (Psa. 104:23).

There are many grim reminders that heartache is as much a part of life as happiness. It is a world in which death is unavoidable. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).

Even the anticipated celebrations of birth are sober warnings that one is another year closer to his death. Birth also brings us into a world in which Satan seeks to steal our souls and overcome us with temptation. One’s eternal fate will rest on the outcome of this tremendous spiritual battle.

The life we are born to is brief. James vividly portrays life as a vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes away (James 4:14).

The brevity of life teaches a lesson of futility in living for this world. People die regardless of how much money they have, regardless of their age, and regardless of how famous or powerful they may be. Death becomes the great equalizer. In death, all are taken from their bodies. None of us will retain our material wealth. Paul reminds us that “we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:7).

After death, there is no more opportunity to work, prepare or ask for forgiveness. Paul said, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

If one lives for God, indeed, his day of death will be greater than his day of birth. His death ends nothing, but is the beginning of the greatest adventure of all, a return to God (Ecc. 12:7). It begins a life which has no end (Luke 20:36). It is a life in which there are no agonies or sufferings. Revelation 7:16,17 says "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." John later wrote that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Death truly brings rest from all of life's "little downs." We read the comforting words of John in Revelation 14:13: "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

The day of death is a day in which we enter into an existence of holiness, awaiting the time we will be presented faultless to our Father (Jude 24). It is the day the door is finally opened for the state of glory that we have striven to obtain.

For the righteous, Paul spoke of death as actually being a blessing from God (1 Cor. 1:21b-23). Especially, it is my prayer that we all will value what death means to the righteous. I wish we could truly appreciate how glorious this all is! Your own attitude and actions determines what death means to you. Death holds no terror to God's saints. It is not a going out of existence; rather, it is a departure for a better world and new life.

Our attitude should be that of Paul when he wrote to the saints at Philippi. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better..." (Phil. 1:21-23).

No better wish could we make than to have on our lips the prayer to "die the death of the righteous" (Num. 23:10). Then we could truly say, it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting.

I hope that the grief and pain of the family can give way to the precious memories of their loved one. I pray your grief can be comforted with thanksgivings to God for the wonderful times you had together. As we consider this assembly gathered here today, there is a wonderful hope for all of us if we remain faithful.

We share with you your tears in parting from this loved one, but I hope we also share with you the joys of hope in meeting him again. In reflecting upon these values, it is truly better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting. ✠

Funeral Sermon by James Fox

*“He Being Dead Yet Speaketh”
(For a Faithful Christian)*

As I began to consider what do say on such an occasion as this, it became apparent that any passage of Scripture which I might read would be appropriate. I thought of the question asked by king David as he mourned the death of Abner, “Know ye not that there is a prince and great man fallen this day in Israel?” (2 Samuel 3:38). Truly a great man has fallen.

Our brother probably would not have been considered great by the world’s standards. He lived his life humbly and simply. He did not receive a great deal of fanfare or lots of publicity. No marble monuments or statues have been erected in his honor. No schools, bridges or buildings bear his name. His greatness pertained to spiritual things – he was a faithful and zealous child of Jehovah God.

While his death is an occasion of sorrow, by virtue of the life he led, it can and should be an occasion of happiness. Paul wrote, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” (1 Thes. 4:13). In Titus 2:13 we read, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Our brother died with this hope.

In Psalms 116:15, the Psalmist states, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” We hear John say, “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, ‘Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.’” (Revelation 14:13).

Our brother was perfect. He would have been the first to tell you so. But, he was well prepared for this occasion. He knew this time would come for him, as it will for all of us (Hebrews 9:27). His preparation continues to speak. Listen to the voice of our brother from beyond the grave.

Like Solomon, he tells us to remember our creator in the days of our youth (Eccl. 12:1). This was our brother’s attitude toward God’s word. Early in his life, at the age of ____, when he learned of the teaching of Jesus in Mark 16:16, and of his apostles in Acts 2:38 and 1 Peter 3:21, he did not argue with heavens commands. He repented of his sins, confessed his faith in Jesus as God’s Son, and was baptized for the remission of sins. He died at the age of ____, thus for ____ years he lived a faithful life in the service of God. He truly gave the Lord the strength of his youth.

Our brother also admonishes us to rear our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4). He was a good, loving and faithful husband and father. The closeness that existed between he and his wife, and his children, is a rare thing in our day. He will continue to speak as his great character manifests itself in the lives of his children. They truly honored him, and no father ever deserved it more. He will continue to be very highly spoken of by his friends, neighbors and brethren in Christ.

Our brother would also remind us to “not think of men above that which is written” (1 Cor. 4:6). He was both steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). He was grounded and settled in the faith as Paul teaches in Col. 1:23. His diligent study of the scriptures brought forth a deep and abiding conviction for the truth which he would not compromise. He would never add to or take away from God’s word (Rev. 22:18,19). He respected Bible teaching and understood that one must have authority for all that is done in work and worship (Col. 3:17; John 12:48; 2 John 9).

He would also tell you to “do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10). He was truly concerned about the physical and spiritual welfare of others. I know of times that he took money from his own pocket to help those in need. It was my good pleasure to be in his presence as he sought to carry out the Lord’s Great Commission, showing his concern for the spiritual welfare of man. He was a constant source of encouragement to me in my work as a preacher.

He also begs us to never be ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). He recognized that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. He knew the gospel contained: **Facts** to be believed (1 Cor. 15:3-5); **commands** to be obeyed (Mark 16:16; Romans 10:9,10); **warnings** to be heeded (Heb. 2:1); and **promises** to be enjoyed (Mark 10:29,30; 2 Cor. 5:1,2).

We should not think of his death as the end, but rather the beginning ... the beginning of a wonderful abundant life (John 10:10). We might be tempted to think of losing, when it should be gaining. Death is not closing the door, it is the opening of the gate to eternity. Death is not paying a debt ... it is taking a note to the bank and obtaining gold in exchange. While we might mourn his passing ... we should rejoice in his promotion. The Bible says it so beautifully in Revelation 7:16,17, “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

Although we are not the judge, we are of a firm conviction that our brother could have said with the apostle Paul, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” In view of his life, these words can be a great source of comfort.

We urge each of you to emulate in your life the principles of righteousness which were so dear to him, and which were so much a part of his life.

To the family I want to say: Life is a journey that grows more and more interesting as you near the end. Death is a change of location, a moving out of one place into a far better one, for those who are prepared for such a move. We stand in the presence of the mystery we call death. But with the Lord, it is no more than the scorching wind that withers the flowers. Babies, young people, fresh graduates, mothers, fathers, old men and old women who have prepared to serve and help others ... all die, there is no difference. So, remember the good times and cherish the loving memories in the days that lie ahead. ✪

Funeral Sermon by Ney Rieber

For The Death Of A Child

Nothing seems quite so tragic as the death of an infant. All of the potential for the future seems empty and wasted. All of the hopes, all of the dreams, all of the plans of the parents are brought to a sudden end.

What once was a warm home filled with the comforting sounds of life, has suddenly become only a house, filled with silence.

Hearts are empty and cry to God, why (child's name)? Why little (child's name)? Why did God have to take him/her? In our grief, we see only the cracks in our own heart. We see everything through a fog of dismay and despair. In our sorrow for our own personal loss, we fail to recognize that this should not be a time of sorrow, but a time of joy.

For just a minute, let us think about what God has spared little (child's name) and his/her parents. God has spared us the worry about how little (child's name) will grow up. We no longer have to worry about childhood diseases. We no longer have to worry about how this harsh world will treat (child's name). We no longer have to worry about failing grades in school. We no longer have to worry about anyone ever mistreating (child's name). We no longer have to worry if (child's name) will find someone to marry who will share his/her life as God wishes. We no longer have to worry about how little (child's name) will survive the temptations that lead into a life of addiction and despair. We no longer have to worry about (child's name) being a success or failure. (Child's name) is a success. (Child's name) is guaranteed a place in the presence of God.

Remember the incident in Mark 10:13,14? "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

For such is the kingdom of God! We can take great comfort from that statement. (Child's name) is with God! There will never be any doubt. There can now be no falling away from God. (Child's name) is assured a place in God's presence.

That should give us more reason for thought about ourselves. Do you remember when David had one of his infant sons die? Listen to the story of the death of David's son in 2 Samuel 12:16-23. "David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me!

David knew he would see his son again in the presence of God. David grieved until his son died, but when there was no longer anything he could do, he looked forward to seeing his son again when they were both in the presence of the Almighty Creator.

We have the same hope. We can hope to see little (child's name) someday in the presence of our God. We are assured that (child's name) will be there. Now we need to turn our eyes upon ourselves and make sure that we do all we must do in order to be there with him/her.

Turn to God for comfort in this time of personal mourning. But even more significantly, continue to live as God would have you live so that you also will be in God's presence someday. Now is the time for you to decide your future.

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life...”

Will you pray with me?

Pray for comfort of bereaved.

Pray for honest hearts.

Pray for desire to know truth.

Pray for growing in knowledge.

Pray for obedience

Pray for growing in God's grace. ✎

Funeral Sermon by Gene Taylor

Funeral for a Godly Man

(This sermon was preached for W. C. Hinton, Jr., my teacher and brother in the faith, who passed from this life on August 5, 1989 at the age of 55)

Physical death, while inevitable for all of us, is something that many view with fear and dread. Yet, the psalmist wrote in Psalms 116:15 that “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints.” To us, though, with our limitations, death never seems, under any circumstances, a “precious” thing – but we need to view things as God does. For, you see, God does not see things as they appear to us. Rather, he sees everything in relation to eternity.

The death of God’s saint, rather than being a senseless end to a futile existence, is really the crowning glory of a life of faith and obedience. For it is in the transition of death that the child of God exchanges worlds. He goes from one that is temporal to one that is eternal, from one that is darkened by sin to one where the sun is not even needed for the glory of God supplies the everlasting light. From a world filled with pain, sorrow and tears to one where every tear is wiped from every eye and there is no more sorrow, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4). His death supplies his entrance into the higher, eternal fellowships. His eternal inheritance is no longer a hope – it is now a reality.

The death of one of God’s saints is also his release from toil; toil in the support and care of family and toil in the Lord’s vineyard. The apostle John, in the book of Revelation, chapter fourteen, verses thirteen and fourteen wrote, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” His death gives him a well deserved rest from the rigors of day-to-day living, the allurements of temptation and the influence of sin and Satan. In death, he realizes his labors in fighting temptation, in resisting Satan, in standing for truth and in being a light to others has not been in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).

Yet, the passing of a loved one and friend, especially at a young age, impresses upon us the brevity and uncertainty of life. The short span of our temporal existence is noted by James 4:13-14, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” The psalmist also spoke of the brief nature of life when he said, “As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more” (Psa. 103:15-16). Whether death comes by sickness, accident or old age, we cannot ward it off, we must face it.

Mark Twain, in his last recorded words, said, “Death, the only immortal who treats us all alike, whose pity and whose peace and whose refuge are for all – the soiled and the pure, the rich and the poor, the loved and the unloved.”

The Hebrew writer spoke the same sentiment in Hebrews 9:27 when he said, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” But

the one who has been obedient to the Lord, as this dear departed one, does not need to fear for the Lord is with such a one, even in death. (Read Psalms 23).

Still, shadows of sorrow hover over us here as we stand in the presence of death. Grief, though, is a natural reaction to death. But to understand the nature and purpose of life is to cope with death, and to understand grief is to understand life. Paul wrote that we should not lose heart when faced with death. In 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:1 he said, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

We see, then, that even in death there is comfort; comfort in the fond memories of this dear one and how he has touched all our lives, and comfort from the Lord. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we read, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Thomas Gray, an eighteenth century poet, saw in death only the futility of life when he wrote his "Elegy Written In A Country Churchyard":

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all the beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

On the other hand, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow saw death, not as the end of life, but as the beginning of eternity. In his "A Psalm Of Life" he penned:

*"Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul.
Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and wait."*

As the apostle Paul has encouraged us, we must not “lose heart” when faced with death, but rather look without fear beyond the grave to the eternal home of the soul (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

The child of God never needs to fear death, for Jesus Christ came to earth to grant him victory over it. Jesus lived as a man, willingly went to the cross as the sacrificial lamb and then was raised by the power of God in victory over sin and death. He allows His saints to share in that victory. Those united with Him in His death (Romans 6:3-4) are to be gloriously raised from the grave incorruptible, eternal and victorious (1 Cor. 15:50-57). With Christ as his Shepherd, the faithful child of God can be comforted by His constant, tender care even in death (Psa. 23:4).

The Lord is present at the death of His saints. He is there to comfort, console and receive that one into His presence eternally.

Our loved one whom we mourn today is a recipient of that comfort and consolation from his Lord. The Lord is always there for his own, ready to bless, willing to receive.

Let us close with prayer. ✞

Funeral Sermon by Bruce Taylor

Teenagers Death by Suicide

I stand here before you today with mixed emotions and with bewilderment in my mind that has caused me hours of deep meditation concerning what I would say on this occasion.

My heart goes out to (deceased's name) parents as they grieve for their child who is no longer. I have tried to place myself (since I also am a parent) in their position. I would like to be able to express words of comfort – like: “I know how you feel!” But, I can't, because **I don't know!** I have not lost a child in such a manner. To you who are brothers and sisters I also would like to console – perhaps by saying “I understand.” But, I can't say this either, because **I don't understand!** I have never lost a brother.

What could I say? I pondered to myself. But the question only continued to hang heavily on my heart. No real answer came. Perhaps I could extol his virtues, I thought. But that would be hypocritical because I never really knew the boy. Those of you who knew and loved him can know far better that I what type of person he was.

I am sure that this tragic incident will be remembered by all who this day sit in the presence of what now remains of the deceased. A tragedy it surely is! To be plucked at such an early age from this life and from those who loved him, while in the prime of his life as the world was beginning to unfold itself to him and as he began to establish his place among men.

We recognize though that death is prevalent all around and has reigned since the beginning of time. The apostle Paul said in Hebrews 9:27 that “it is appointed unto man once to die.” Perhaps some consolation can be taken from the fact that he has only gone the way that all men (including you and me)

shall ultimately go. We must all answer death's call some day. We know not when.

As a minister of the gospel and a servant of God Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ I am made to realize also that there is another, more tragic thought to be considered. The continuation of Hebrews 9:27 says that after death come the judgment. In other words, our fate is sealed for eternity depending on our relationship to God when we die. The apostle Paul also said that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

The "preacher" in Ecclesiastes 12:1 exhorted the young to "remember also your creator in the days of your youth." This young man did, and for such we are grateful. His willingness to embrace the Lord as his master early in life should cause a warmth to engulf our very souls. But, I am sure his parents would bear witness to the fact that somewhere along the way he lost that "love" and began to walk after the ways of men. James 2:26 says, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." Just in the strength of youth when he could have led many souls to Christ, a frivolous, nonsensical act deprived him of his life and the Lord of a servant that could have been a profit to Him.

This is all past now and we cannot go back and change anything that has happened. We can however, look to ourselves and profit from this shocking and shattering experience. No words of exhortation, no words of instruction, no words of chastisement can reach out and grasp those who have gone beyond the veil of death. They are gone forever. Our encouragement must be directed to those of us who remain among the living. I pose this question: "What will we do with our life?" We, while in the flesh, are the "captain of our own ship," "the master of our own fate." Will we bring our lives under subjection to God as He commands? Let us live by this thought: "Only one life, it will soon be past; only what is done for Christ will last."

My friend, our souls are at stake! Let not this one who lies before us have lived in vain. But rather let us who now live, continue to do so in view of the Lord's teaching to us, and not in that which might have been.

Let us pray. ✠

Funeral Outline by Robert Welch

*“Of Such Is The Kingdom Of Heaven”
(Funeral Oration for the Death of a Child)*

Mark 10:13-16

- I. Why do men feel so self-important?**
 - A. Want attention centered on them.
 - B. No place for children with this type of person.

- II. Christ knew the value of children**
 - A. They belong to the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - B. They have not learned greed and the hatred of the world.
 - C. They have not lost their innocent confidence in man and Christ.

- III. We must receive the Kingdom as a little child**
 - A. Accept God’s ways without question.
 - B. Believe His ways are best.
 - C. Trust Him to work for good.

- IV. “He took them up in his arms” (vs. 16)**
 - A. Safe in the arms of Jesus.
 - B. No question concerning a child’s destiny.
 - C. To the Christian this should bring an inward joy.
 - D. “And the mother gave, in tears and pain, The flowers she most did love; She knew she would see them all again, In the fields of light above.” (Longfellow)
 - E. The enfolding care of Christ.

- V. “He blessed them”**
 - A. He will bless all those who meekly submit to His will.

*“Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep,
From which none ever wake to weep;
A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.
Asleep in Jesus! O, how sweet,
To be for such a slumber meet!
With holy confidence to sing,
That death has lost its venom’d sting.
Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest,
Whose walking is supremely blest,
No fear, no woe shall dim that hour,
That manifests the Saviors power.”*
 - B. All things work together for good (Rom. 8:28) ☺

Funeral Outline by Robert Welch

*“God’s Offspring”
Acts 17:24-31*

When faced with parting, the great questions of the ages demand answering; the man without God in his life does not have it. Paul had it and gave it to the world.

- I. God made the world, and all things (vs. 24)
- II. God gives to all life, breath and all things (vs. 25)
- III. The world should seek God, and find Him (vs. 27)
 - A. Hear Him (Acts 10:33)
 - B. Believe (Romans 10:17; Heb. 11:6)
 - C. Repent of sins (Acts 17:30)
 - D. Be Baptized (Gal. 3:26,27)
- IV. We are the offspring of God (vs. 29)
 - A. Made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27)
 - B. The Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
- V. There is an appointed day of judgment (vs. 31)
 - A. Death and judgment are certain (Heb. 9:27)
 - B. Man goeth to his eternal home (Eccl. 12:5)
- VI. Guaranteed through Christ’s resurrection (vs. 31)
 - A. “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)
 - B. “I go, prepare a place, come again, receive you” (John 14:1-3)
 - C. The dead in Christ shall rise (1 Thes. 4:16-18)

“God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah.
There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God will help her, just at the break of dawn.
The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved,
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.”
(Psalms 46:1-6) ✠

Funeral Outline by Robert Welch

“Abiding Things”

*“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity” (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

Introduction: When life and all its surroundings seem so uncertain we need to grab some of the abiding, eternal, things. Things that can never be shaken, nor taken away.

I. Faith

- A. I know whom I have believed (2 Tim. 1:12)
- B. Faith to overcome (1 John 5:4)
- C. Believe in God and Christ {trust} (John 14:1-5)

II. Hope

- A. Saved in hope, patience (Rom. 8:24-25)
- B. Hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2)
- C. An anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:18-20)
- D. A comforting hope (1 Thes. 4:13,14,18)

III. Love

- A. Love God who first loved us (1 John 4:19)
- B. Christ took them and blessed them (Mark 10:16)
- C. All things work together for good (Rom. 8:28) ✠

Funeral Outline by David Hurst

"I Go Unto My Father"
John 14:12

Introduction: Many try to avoid death by ignoring its reality. Occasions such as this force us to face the fact that it is "appointed unto man once to die" (Heb. 9:27). None of us can escape death, "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt upon the ground, which cannot be gathered up again" (2 Sam. 14:14). What wisdom and comfort is there in death (Ecc. 7:2)?

I. Wisdom Accepts Life As Brief

- A. Life is described as swift as a journey (Gen. 47:9; Psa. 119:54)
- B. It is as swift as a runner or the eagle after its prey (Job 9:25-26)
- C. Life is described as short as a man's breath (Psa. 39:5)
- D. It is as short as a sigh, withering grass, and a vapor (Psa. 90:5-17)

II. Wisdom In Knowing This World Is Not Our Home

- A. We are as strangers in a foreign land (1 Pet. 2:11)
- B. Our conversation is in heaven (Phi. 3:20)
- C. We use this life to prepare for another world
 - 1. Seeking first things first (Matt. 6:33)
 - 2. Self-denial (Luke 6:26)
 - 3. To die in Christ is to "live" in Him (John 15:7; 2 John 9)

III. Comfort Is Found In The World To Come

- A. We have a hope much like the prodigal who returns to his father
 - 1. A home prepared for us (John 14:1,2)
 - 2. Our death will be precious in God's sight (Psa. 116:15)
 - 3. Our body will return to dust, but our spirit to God (Ecc. 12:7)
- B. This hope offers comfort and sustains us in time of grief
 - 1. Christ is our example in this (Heb. 12:2)
 - 2. Hope is the anchor of our soul (Heb. 6:19)
 - 3. We have rewards now, and in the life to come (Mark. 10:30)
 - 4. Our assurance comes from God (Josh. 1:5; Heb. 13:5)
 - 5. The Lord is ever with us, especially now in our grief

Though death is certain, we can triumph over it. To succeed in our short lives for God makes death meaningful (Romans 14:8,9). For the righteous, death is the doorway that leads to the crown of life. ♡

Funeral Outline by Wayne Walker

“No Man Dieth To Himself”

We are gathered here in the memory of (name of deceased). (If requested by the family, read the obituary.)

It is difficult for a preacher to talk about the death of a friend, especially when there are a lot of memories to cloud the mind. But as Marc Anthony indicated in *Julius Caesar*, the purpose of a funeral is not primarily to eulogize the dead. We cannot do or say anything that will either help or harm them. The dead are in the hands of Almighty God and we trust that the judge of all the earth will do right. Our aim here is to encourage those who are left behind in the land of the living.

In Romans 14:7 we read, “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.” Paul reminds us that our lives affect other people. How are we affected by another’s passing? Death reminds us:

I. Life Is Not Permanent

- A. Psalms 90:1-10
- B. James 4:13-15

II. Death Is Sure

- A. Genesis 3:17-19
- B. Hebrews 9:27

III. We Will All Stand In Judgment

- A. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
*“When this passing world is done,
When has sunk life’s glaring sun,
When I stand with Christ on high,
Looking over life’s history,
Then Lord shall I fully know,
Just how much to Thee I owe.”*
- B. Acts 17:30,31
- C. Corinthians 5:10

IV. The Hope Of A Christian Is Eternal Life

- A. Philippians 1:20-23
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- C. “Dead in Christ” (cf. Galatians 3:26-27)

The death of a loved one is always sad, but when we can use it to think soberly about life and be motivated to prepare properly for our own passing, it can be viewed as a useful part of God’s overall plan for mankind. ✠

Funeral Outline by Gary L. Fiscus

“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”
(Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:6,7)

Introduction

- I. Read the song, *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*.
 - A. The Christian life is one of faith, trust and obedience (Heb. 11:6).
 - B. Jesus promised to always be with His apostles (Matt. 28:20b).
 1. If we encourage someone to do something difficult, and say, “I will be with you,” we are promising cooperation and support.
 - C. Jesus made such a promise!
- II. God’s children today also need encouragement. Jesus gives it.
 - A. Read the song, *Does Jesus Care?*.
 - B. This should instill our care one for another.
 - C. John Bunyan wrote, “Christians are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dew of heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other’s roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other.”

Discussion

- I. The Testimony Of The Scriptures**
 - A. Psalms 34:4-7; Hebrews 10:14
 - B. Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 3:10-12
 - C. Corinthians 10:13

- II. Application Of The Text**
 - A. Sparrows are small and insignificant.
 1. Matthew says 2 for 1¢; Luke says 5 for 2¢.
 2. One thrown in when four are bought – emphasizes the near worthlessness of them. God cares even for the smallest.
 - B. This has meaning for us:
 1. Material blessings.
 - a) Hebrews 13:5
 - b) Matthew 6:31-33; Philippians 4:6,7,19
 2. Trials and tribulations.
 - a) James 1:2-5; 2 Peter 2:9a
 - b) Corinthians 10:13; Revelation 3:10
 3. Strength for our duty.
 - a) Deut. 33:25; Isaiah 40:29-31; 2 Cor. 12:9,10

Funeral Outline by Gary L. Fiscus

"The Comforter"
(Isaiah 66:13)

God promises the comfort for all where the heart is saddened. Where can we find fulfillment of His promises?

I. In The Sympathy Of Our Friends

- A. I know of no one who does not need or want friends.
- B. The Bible places much emphasis on friendship.
 - 1. Proverbs 17:17, 18:24.
- C. Friends can share your sorrow.
 - 1. Romans 12:15
 - 2. John 11:31
 - a) There were friends with Mary, the Jews.
 - b) There was a dearer friend who came in later = Jesus Christ.
- D. Friends can testify (Psalms 30:5).

II. In The Promise Of Scripture

- A. The word "comfort" is used many times in the Bible:
 - 1. Psalms 119:50
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 4:18
- B. Jesus knew compassion.
 - 1. Matthew 9:36 - He had compassion for people, do we?
- C. The Holy Spirit is the "comforter." (John 14:16)
 - 1. We receive this comfort through the message He revealed.
- D. In prophesying of Jesus Christ, Isaiah said He would be "acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3).

III. In The Assurance Of Our Faith

- A. John 14:1
- B. The gospel message is "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10).
- C. Jesus' purpose "that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

God's comfort is yours today. Accept it and embrace it. ✨

Funeral Outline by Bruce Taylor

“Ode To Death”

I. Introduction

- A. Texts: Psa. 90:10 & Psa. 103:15,16
- B. Death has been God’s unalterable decree since the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:19 “for dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return”)
- C. Joshua’s last speech (Josh. 23:14)
- D. David stated, “...the time has come when I must go the way of all the earth” (1 Kings 2:2)
- E. The souls departure to a Christian may be likened unto a person moving out of an old house into a new one (2 Cor. 4:18-5:4)
- F. There are four calls that present themselves unto man. One can be rejected, but three must (and will) be kept!

II. Discussion

- A. The Call Of The Gospel (2 Thes. 2:14)
 - 1. Heb. 11:6 “without faith it is impossible to please him...”
- B. The Call Of Death (Heb. 9:27)
- C. The Call Of The Resurrection (John 5:28:29)
- D. The Call Of The Judgment (2 Cor. 5:10)
 - 1. The way we answered the first call will determine where we will be after this final call!

III. Conclusion: Man’s hope is based on two things:

- A. His being born again (John 3:5)
- B. His being faithful to the end (Rev. 2:10, 14:13) ✠

Funeral Outline by Roger Hillis

“Life Is A Vapor”

Introduction

- A. Read the obituary.
- B. Text: James 4:13-17. This passage suggests several things to us:

Discussion

I. The Short Duration Of Life

- A. At best, life is too short (Psa. 90:12 “teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”)
- B. Our God is eternal, He does not measure time as we do.
- C. This person died at a young age, but even 100 years is short.

II. Life Can End At Any Time

- A. So often, there is little we can do about it.
- B. An accidental death that cuts life short is not uncommon, but when it involves one we know, we grieve at the tragedy and ask “Why?”
- C. We may not totally understand – no man has all the answers. The God we serve is all-wise and promises that “All things work together for good” for those who love Him.

III. Make The Most Of Our Opportunities

- A. Proverbs 27:1 “Do not boast about tomorrow...”
- B. What a difference one day makes – need to do what we can today.
 - 1. Help others; Serve the Lord; Prepare our souls for eternity.
- C. A Bible story - Luke 16:15-21.
 - 1. The really important things in life are not money or possessions.
 - 2. Its not what we *have*, but what we *are*!
 - 3. This man didn't know about:
 - a) Family love (mother, sister, beautiful children)
 - b) Laying up treasure in heaven
 - c) Serving the Lord (Mark 12:29-31)

Conclusion

- I. There are two things you can not escape:
 - A. Death (Heb. 9:27)
 - B. Judgment (2 Cor. 5:10)
- II. Let us use our time wisely in preparing for the judgment. ✠

Funeral Outline by Harry Lewis

“Blessings In Death For The Faithful”

Introduction

- I. Old World concepts of death:
 - A. The Grim Reaper
 - B. Chilly hand of death.
 - C. Specter in the night.
- II. Biblical concept of death:
 - A. Ecclesiastes 7:1 “A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one’s birth.”
 - B. Revelation 14:13 “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”
 - C. Corinthians 5:6 “while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.”
- III. Some mourn – some celebrate!

Discussion

- I. **Death Is The End Of Some Things**
 - A. End of cares of this world (Eccl. 9:6)
 - B. End of all suffering (Rom. 8:18)
 - C. End of fear of death (Heb. 2:15)
 - D. End of worldly temptations (John 17:15; James 1:14)
- II. **Death Is The Beginning Of Other Things**
 - A. Rest (Matt. 11:29-29; Heb. 4:9)
 - B. Presence with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6)
 - C. Comfort from God (Luke 16:25; Rev. 7:17, 21:4; 2 Cor. 1:7)
 - D. Joining the faithful (Luke 16:22)
 - E. More abundant life (John 10:10; 1 Cor. 15:58)

Conclusion

- I. If a loved one were just going to Alaska for a better job, we would weep for the absence, but rejoice with them for the gain.
- II. Would we not hope for the day when we could go see them?
- III. There are too many blessings in death for the faithful Christian to fear it very much. ✠

Funeral Outline by Brian Sullivan

"The Day Of Death"

Introduction

- I. Read Eccl. 7:2. Death is no respecter of persons ... it calls for all.
 - A. Young, old, rich, poor, wise, foolish, babe or aged, ready or not, those who appear healthy, or those who are otherwise ... death calls at every home, and sooner or later, at every life.
- II. Let us lay it to our hearts by thinking soberly and seriously for the next few moments.

Discussion

- I. **All Men Know That They Will One Day Die**
 - A. May seem strange, but very true indeed.
 - B. Eccl. 9:5 - "for the living know that they will die."
 - C. World in which we now live is filled with death and dying.
 - D. Heb. 9:27 - "appointed unto man once to die" then judgment
 - E. All familiar with Psalms 90:10 ... "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."
 - F. Psalmist not saying everyone is guaranteed that span of years. Regardless of how old or young a person may be, one day they will "fly away." In other words: death will call.
 - G. One day people will come to our funeral.
- II. **As A Man Or Woman Dies, So Is He Or She**
 - A. Eccl. 11:3 ... "in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be"
 - B. Travel thru forest and see that that truth is evident.
 - C. Not one preacher or religious leader on this earth can possibly change the destiny of our soul once we die.
 - D. Eccl. 12:7 ... "then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."
 - E. Heb. 9:27 - Death, then judgment ... no changes in between, no altering of destiny by other men ... just as true as the fact, "where the tree falleth, there it shall be..."
- III. **We Are Not Certain Exactly When We Might Die**
 - A. Jacob said, "I am old, I know not the day of my death" (Gen. 27:2).
 - B. Eccl. 9:11-12 reveals, with some "it falleth suddenly upon them."
 - C. James 4:14-15 ... expressed life like a vapor ... appeareth for a little while then vanisheth away ... illustrate with old kettle on wood stove on a cold winter day. Sometimes just clears the spout, other times up to the ceiling.

- D. None of us knows when we will die ... it may be sudden, it may be in our later years ... we do not know whether we will see our children's children, or maybe not even our own.
- E. Here we are, and what we are at death is exactly what we will be in the judgment.

IV. The Application

- A. Those are sober, serious considerations aren't they? For you and I still living, we know that we will die one day, and although we might not know the exact date, we are aware that the state in which we die is the state in which we will meet God in judgment. That seems almost frightening, fearful, awesome in thought.
- B. The greatest fear is the mystery surrounding death and what lies beyond the grave.
 - 1. Job 38:17 ... "Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?"
 - 2. Job, like all of us, would have to say "No."
- C. No one living has seen beyond the curtain of death into what lies beyond. Yet, we need not be frightened if we are ready to go, nor should we be disturbed. The reason is that God himself has blazed a trail through life and death unto himself through Jesus Christ.
- D. Paul said, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).
 - 1. Paul uses personification ... that is, he speaks of "death" and "the grave" as persons. He asks of them, where is your sting, where is your victory?
 - 2. He answers in the next verse. The sting of death is sin; the strength of sin is the law (1 Cor. 15:56). Sin is the element that has bearing on our situation at death. If a person dies in sin, law condemns them, and in judgment they will lose all.
 - 3. The case is not hopeless. Listen to verse 57: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Conclusion

- I. Jesus lived and died, was buried and raised, to save us from sin ... to set us free from its bondage.
 - A. Death could not hold him, nor will it hold those who are in Him ... He arose never to die again.
 - B. He said "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).
- II. Tell of salvation through Christ, suggest willingness to talk after committal service. ✠



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