



**ASSOCIATION OF BIBLE
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FUNERALS

PREPARING FOR A FUNERAL

WHY HAVE A FUNERAL AT ALL ?

The purposes of a Christian funeral are simple, although often attacked by worthless traditions and idolatry. A pastor must approach the funeral with a consciousness of the important role it can play in reaching the lost people who will usually attend. He is also required to comfort those who are saved through reminding them of many wonderful truths from God's Word.

At almost every funeral, there will be people present who do not understand what has happened to the deceased. The Preacher would do well to educate them from the Bible. The pastor should be teaching at church what the Bible says about a person who has gone on to be with the Lord, so that at the least, his own congregation can be secure in understanding how to deal with these things. There will also be a few people who—despite hearing the truth taught from the pulpit—would rather cling to their vain and false traditions. However, there is no hope, joy, or peace in those things which fall short of the truth. Eventually, the true Christian must hold onto what God says in His Word rather than follow the things which bring no true relief.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A SAVED PERSON'S FUNERAL.

In some circumstances, the preacher himself does not know the Bible's teaching about death, and so he is incapable of being truly useful to God until he himself knows what the truth is. Be the teacher God wants you to be. It is through the Truth of God that men are set free from their traditions and delivered from their chains of darkness. We need to briefly review some essential facts.

1. If the deceased is saved, they are alive and in Heaven.
2. If the deceased is saved, they will be given a new body, and this one must be set aside, having finished its course.
3. If the deceased is saved, their soul and spirit are not here, will not linger here, is not asleep with the body, and is actually in Heaven.
4. Comfort is available to those remaining behind through the work of God's Holy Spirit.

Over the past ten years, I have been made aware of the extreme focus upon funerals for loved ones in various parts of the world. Even pastors have been compelled, by traditions, to stop their ministries, and focus all attention upon the funeral of a loved one.

Funerals can be events of opportunity, or they can be chains of slavery which keep men in darkness. It is the duty of a Preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lead those who have been in darkness into the light.

FUNERALS AS EVENTS OF SLAVERY

No one can rightly accuse Jesus of being without compassion. However, He did tell one man who had the choice between serving God or attending a funeral, "...Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God." Luke 9:60. It is clear from this that there was a focus which Jesus wanted the man to follow. It was not the focus of national, tribal, or local burial traditions, but for the man to serve God as his primary duty and purpose. The man was to place the expectations which God had for him above those expectations which would naturally come from others in his family.

Sometimes this involves great personal sacrifice. Believers are not always able to attend the funerals of loved ones due to financial limitations, or other health reasons. But, an even greater issue is raised when they COULD attend a funeral, but God had already assigned them a task at the same time period. If they attended the funeral, they would not be able to do what the Lord assigned. If they did what the Lord assigned, they would not be able to go to the funeral. In either case, there will be people who would be offended. Now, the issue which we all face is, who do we chose to offend ? Do we offend our human families ? Or, do we offend God, Who loved us and saved us ? Thankfully, we are not always put into a circumstance where we must chose between offending God or men, but the situation may come about, and you should be prepared take your stand for the Lord, regardless of the cost.

Respect for our Biblical elders and loved ones is an important part of the Christian's doctrine. However, if we truly understand that the deceased has gone on to be with Jesus, what do we come to a funeral for ? Do we come to honor a body ? Who benefits from that ? The loved one is in heaven, and received no benefit at all. They are not benefited by your presence. Do we come to appease our relatives ? Most of the time, no matter what you do, you cannot appease them.

While this is sometimes the case, we must consider who we should satisfy even before them. Do we come to comfort ourselves ? For the Christian, is there more comfort in knowing that our loved one is in Heaven and will receive a new body which has no pain or sorrow. We can receive comfort from God's Holy Spirit whether we attend the funeral, or not. Or, is our comfort in mourning over a body which has suffered pain and sicknesses and now no longer is aware of anything ?

If we are called upon to oversee a funeral, we must focus our own attention—as well as the attention of those attending the funeral—on the Lord Jesus, Who is our Resurrection and life. John 11:25 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” Even if the loved one was our own family member, or not, our emphasis must be the same.

DIFFERENT PREACHING FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

We know that only those who have repented of their sins and have placed their faith in Jesus Christ are going to Heaven. All others end up in Hell. A pastor must sometimes oversee a funeral where he is certain that the deceased has rejected Jesus Christ. These can be difficult occasions, since there is no comfort in knowing that a loved one is in Hell. So, the pastor must focus much of his attention on the opportunity which Jesus provides for those who are living to receive Jesus Christ, and go to Heaven.

Do not expect to use the same funeral message again and again. Each funeral is for a different person, will have different people attending, will occur at different times, and thus, it needs a refreshing from the Spirit of God each time you preach.

TRADITIONS

Funeral traditions often vary within just a couple hundred miles. Each location has certain special things that they do at funerals which others nearby do not do. When traditions are involved, the God-called preacher must never compromise on the Truth. He must not participate in rituals and traditions which contradict the teaching of God's Word. Because of the many mysteries involving death, Satan has provided hundreds of superstitions which continue to plague people even today.

In one funeral, I was asked by one part of the family to preach, while another part of the family which was strongly connected to false traditions and occult practices wanted another person to preach. They agreed to have us both. When I was confronted with this dilemma, I told them that I would not participate unless I could speak first, and then, they could do whatever they wanted. The family agreed, and I presented some comfort from the Scriptures (the deceased was a saved man), the Gospel message along with an invitation to receive Jesus Christ. When I was finished, I left the funeral, and they had their cultist speaker speak.

Beware of preaching a standardized funeral message from a book of any kind. I have attended some funerals where pastors would read a formal funeral message which contained some truth and some error, and did nothing to communicate the opportunity for salvation to those who were there.

The manner in which the body of the deceased is cared for is also subject to many traditions. Some embalm the body, some cremate the body, some refrigerate the body, some bury the body within 24 hours of death, and today, some freeze the body and place it into burial freezers. This often steals the attention of those attending the funeral and focuses upon the body. In fact, the actual person (the soul and spirit) is either in Heaven or Hell already. An emphasis upon a burial place, the type of burial, etc., takes away from where the emphasis should be.

ANTICIPATE RESULTS

In the hundreds of funerals where I have preached, I have attempted to present Jesus Christ as the source of hope, comfort, and new life. While I may mention the deceased by name, and if the deceased was a true believer, I might use events from his life as illustrations, the emphasis by far, is always upon the grace of God in sending us Jesus.

At each funeral, there have been at least a couple people who disagreed with my spending any time speaking about Jesus at all. So, out of an abundance of personal experience, let me advise you in preparation for a funeral, to arm yourself with the concept that you are not preaching to please people. You are presenting to needy people those words which God has given to you. You must fully decide to please God. As a result, God will bless you with a greater working of His Spirit, and souls may be saved at the funeral itself or shortly thereafter. But, you should also be prepared to receive criticism. There are almost always people who would have been more pleased if you had spent the entire time talking about the good deeds of the deceased. But, if you did this, you would be establishing the focus upon men, and not the precious Savior of men.

Expect God to bless His Word. Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES

The funeral is a unique opportunity to gather family members together, sometimes from great distances. You may have the opportunity to sow the seed of the Word to many of them only once. So, your prayer preparations must be full and serious.

In the hundreds of funerals which I have preached, no two of them were alike. Just as each of the deceased was different, so were the messages. If you listen to the Spirit of God, He will guide you to speak those things needful at each funeral. There was an old preacher I knew who preached the same message at every funeral. One day a gust of strong wind blew his funeral notes away. The people who were listening expected him to be somewhat confused then. But, he told them that he had preached the same message so many times, he didn't really need those notes, anyway. The family of the deceased

later complained that they were considered just another funeral date, and there was nothing special about their loved one or themselves that required a special message.

Psalm 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

WHERE IS THE PERSON NOW ?

THE BIBLE ESTABLISHES THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE ALIVE AFTER THEIR BODY DIES.

- Example: RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

HOW DOES GOD DO THIS ?

GOD SHOWS THAT MAN WAS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

MAN HAS THREE PARTS, JUST AS GOD DOES.

WHEN THE BODY DIES, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOUL AND SPIRIT.

ABSENT FROM THE BODY, PRESENT WITH THE LORD.

DO WE HAVE A GOOD FUTURE.

GOD LOVES HIS CREATION.

PEOPLE HAVE REBELLED. EVERYONE IS A SINNER.

GOD PROVIDED FOR A WAY THAT HIS CREATION CAN REGAIN THE PARADISE THAT THEY LOST.

--JESUS WAS THE ANSWER TO MAN'S FAILURES.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR A SAVED PERSON

Funerals following the loss of a saved person are designed to comfort saved relatives, friends, and acquaintances, and convict the hearts of those who have not yet decided for the Lord Jesus Christ. Many times the departed Believer had acquaintances who were not saved, and those people will attend a funeral out of respect. In addition lost relatives who do not attend any Bible-believing church often will come to a funeral service out of respect, and their presence makes it an important opportunity to make them think about the reality of dying and where they will end up.

These services don't have to follow any specific structure, and they can range from informal to extremely formal. The Holy Spirit, using the preacher's knowledge of the family and their needs, should make a service specifically for each family of the deceased. Find out what the background is for the closest family members. If you have ideas about what to preach, or how the service should be run, share them with that immediate family, and see their response. In most cases, they are willing to accept whatever the Lord has laid on your heart.

Funerals which the Lord would have us oversee are not events which send a person's soul into heaven, as some claim, nor are they to glorify the person who has gone on to be with the Lord. The Lord should always be the One glorified and praised, for it is He Who saved the deceased, and He alone brought them into Heaven.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Funerals vary greatly in content, length, and formality, depending upon the culture in which they occur and the needs of the people to whom you are ministering. The following is merely a sample funeral showing the basic background of a funeral, and what ingredients need to be included, regardless of the culture.

TERMINOLOGY

It is easy to get caught up in the world's terminology, and use the wrong words describing the condition of the person who has gone to the Lord. They should always be spoken about with the understanding that they are very much alive, and with the Lord.

Luke 20:37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto Him.

By referring to them as alive, we focus the attention of those attending the funeral on the truth of God's Word, and encourage them, that if they are saved, all those who are saved, one day, be with the Lord Jesus.

Especially when non-Christians are present, we must be careful to use words which they can understand more easily. In fact, many aspects of life and death are really foreign to a non-Believer. They cannot comprehend the teaching that man is one person, with three parts. They cannot understand how the soul and spirit can live, and be in Heaven, while the body decays on the earth. They cannot understand about the resurrection of the body that God promised, and why some people who seem to be good end up in Hell. These are concepts which you may have an opportunity to teach about during a funeral. The reminder of these precious truths can also inspire more faith and generate more comfort among Believers, as well.

NON-CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS IN FUNERALS.

In some cultures, the past non-Christian religious customs have played a very influential role in how Christian funerals are conducted. In such circumstances it takes a great deal of courage, prayer, and Godly wisdom for a man of God to present the Truth about life and Death. Nevertheless, he is not supposed to be working for the world. He is supposed to be a committed servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the clear departure from non-Christian traditions should be understood as a requirement from God.

There are times when it becomes advantageous to use some benign custom or tradition as a means to comfort those attending the funeral, but it should be a rare occasion when that is done. Traditions which refer to other gods or a false doctrine should never be included, regardless of what false comfort they might pretend to give.

On one occasion, I was asked to participate in a funeral with another pastor, who I did not know. Prior to the service, I asked him if everything in the service would be according to the Bible, and whether it included some misleading customs. He assured me that it was completely Biblical. However, after my message, and the beginning of his message, it became

clear that he had lied. After speaking for several minutes, he turned the remainder of the service over to a cultist who claimed to have taken the soul of the dead person into Heaven as the cultist rang a bell. He then alleged that the dead person was surely in Heaven now because he had done many good deeds in his life, thus contradicting what Jesus said about salvation being a gift of God, given by grace through faith. I immediately declared my objection to his lies by walking off the platform, and leaving the service. After it was finished I returned and ministered personally to the family (who were equally as offended by the deception of the minister who preached after I did).

As men called of God, we must establish Godly guidelines for all our services, and not be dictated to by the lost and degenerate world. Our presentation of comfort and salvation will be different for each funeral. In my own experience, which included many hundreds of funerals, I must confess that each funeral was different, and provided a unique message, since each group of people at the funerals had slightly differing needs. Remember that if you preach the same sermon at each funeral, you may reach a certain group of people at one, and hardly any at another. Just as the Holy Spirit customizes His message to us, as preachers of the Word, we should allow Him to preach a customized message to each new set of people at funerals.

Obviously, there are MANY Scriptures which naturally provide comfort and help in a funeral service. Below is a list of some of the ones more commonly used and have an obvious value in that application.

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE NATURE OF MAN.

MAN HAS THREE PARTS SINCE HE IS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. (FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT PARELLEL IN MAN THE SOUL, THE BODY, AND THE SPIRIT).

Genesis 1:26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**The reason for these Scriptures is that often, people believe that they are burying their loved one. In fact, if the person was truly saved, they are already in Heaven and blessed with the presence of the Lord. The congregation should understand that the body is merely a jar, a vessel, for the true person.*

ALL PEOPLE ARE SINNERS. Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

OUR SIN RESULTS IN THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

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

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE RESURRECTION.

1 Corinthians 15:52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

Philippians 3:21 *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE COMING OF THE LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

1 Thessalonians 4:17 *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.*

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE HELP WHICH COMES FROM GOD.

John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

John 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 *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.*

SCRIPTURES ABOUT OUR FUTURE HOME.

John 14:2-3 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Hebrews 11:10 *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Revelation 3:12 *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

SCRIPTURES ABOUT A PERSON'S NEED FOR JESUS.

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

The following outline and comments are suggestions which must be prayerfully adapted to the unique needs which each funeral contains.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR A SAVED PERSON

***MEETING WITH THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY FOR PRAYER IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE ACTUAL SERVICE BEGINS.** *The Pastor may ask permission to issue an invitation for salvation (although that is not necessary in most cases), and check to see what arrangements have been made regarding the body (Viewing the body? If so, at what times?).*

HYMN OF FAITH (This may be sung as a solo, by a group, or by the entire congregation).

**Note on the selection of songs. The pastor should guide in this selection. Some of the more traditional songs are specifically designed to evoke tearful emotions, and sometimes are used exclusively at funerals. If the departed person was a true Believer, the selection of songs should reflect the faithfulness of the Lord, His salvation, His promises, the beautiful eternity in Heaven which we will have, etc. They should NOT be chosen because they are typically used in funerals, but should be chosen on the basis of whether they will provide real comfort and truth.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 *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.*

The congregation should be reminded that while they will sorrow, they should be confident in the promises of God, and should not sorrow as "...others which have no hope."

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING COMMENTS

WELCOME TO THOSE ATTENDING. *Sometimes it is appropriate to recognize the relatives of the departed by name. At other times, it is not necessary.*

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED. **It is always of interest to people what background the person had. Sometimes, by speaking with the departed's family prior to the service, you can hear some wonderful stories which highlight the new life which Jesus gave them. This can be brought out at this time.*

***BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE THEIR SALVATION EXPERIENCE, AND THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH NOT PERFECT, THEY HAD FAITH IN THE LORD.**

SCRIPTURE READING

**Usually, Scriptures dealing with the resurrection are appropriate at this point.*

SONG OF PRAISE OR COMFORT

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD

SONG OF COMFORT OR PRAISE

INVITATION

**This should not be limited to inviting the unsaved to become Christians. While that should be the primary emphasis, an invitation to Christians is also very appropriate. If the departed has led a strong and faithful Christian life, and has served the Lord effectively, their testimony may serve as an example to others. You should challenge Christians in the congregation to dedicate their lives more completely.*

CLOSING PRAYER

**Usually praying for the family and friends of the departed, that they will be comforted and strengthened by the Lord. Also, that those who made commitments of faith at the invitation will be faithful to carry them out.*

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF THE BODY.

***In the United States, it is not unusual for the Funeral to take place in a church or a Chapel, and the Burial to be at a considerable distance from that location. Most Morticians want to have the body displayed and seen before and after the Funeral Service.*

However, it is becoming more and more common for Christians to request that the coffin should be closed and the body should not be seen. The reason is that they want to remember their loved one as they were when alive, and they know that they will see them again in their glorified, resurrection bodies.

However, there are still some families who want to view the physical remains of their loved one before burial. The final opportunity is most often immediately after the Funeral Service. I personally do not agree with this policy, since it often makes people set aside the hope and joy they received from the Word of God, only to replace it with sadness all over again.

It is at the end of the Funeral Service when it is announced where the burial will take place, and whether there will be an opportunity to view the remains of the departed.

THE GRAVE-SIDE SERVICE (COMMITMENT SERVICE)

This is usually the shorter of the two services, and takes place at the burial site. In some countries, where the body is burned, this part of the ceremony obviously is not necessary,

PRAYER

SONG OF COMFORT OR PRAISE

SCRIPTURE

SHORT MESSAGE

PRAYER

PERSONAL COMFORT TIME WITH THE FAMILY

A SAMPLE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR A LOST PERSON

WE CAN EVALUATE OUR LIVES AND LEARN ALOT, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DO IT WITH THE HELP OF GOD'S WORD. BUT, THERE WILL BE MANY QUESTIONS IN LIFE THAT WON'T GET ANSWERED IN THIS LIFE.

WE DON'T KNOW MANY THINGS FROM OUR HUMAN PERSPECTIVE. WE ARE HUMAN, AND THEREFORE LIMITED IN SO MANY WAYS.

WE CAN'T SEE THINGS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS, WE CANNOT SEE ALL THE FACTORS WHICH EFFECT EVBERY CIRCUMSTANCE IN THIS WORLD.

WE DON'T KNOW THE FUTURE IF WE USE OUR SINFUL LOGIC AND REASONING. A COUPLE MONTHS AGO, PROBABLY NONE OF US THOUGHT WE WOULD BE HERE TODAY HAVING THIS SERVICE.

HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW: AND THESE ARE THINGS THAT _____ WOULD WANT YOU TO KNOW.

1. JESUS LOVED _____. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

2. JESUS LOVED _____ THAT HE DIED FOR HIS/HER SINS.
HE SUFFERED AS NO ONE ELSE BECAUSE HE WAS SUFFERING FOR THE INS OF THE WORLD. **1 Peter 3:18** *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*

3. JESUS LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT HIS LOVE AND HIS ABILITY TO SAVED.
GRACE OF GOD HATH.. **Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

4. JESUS LOVES YOU, AND DIED FOR YOUR SINS. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE FOR ALL ETERNITY AND GIVE YOU LIFE ETERNAL. **John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*

5. WE KNOW THAT A PERON IS NOT SAVED BY ANY GOOD WORKS THEY HAVE,
HOW KIND THEY WERE, OR WHO THEY HELPED IN THIS LIFE.

--ALL HAVE SINNED REGARDLESS OF THEIR GOOD POINTS. AS A RESULT OF SIN, WE NEED TO BE SAVED. **Titus 3:5** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

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

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

THESE THINGS ARE GIVEN TO US BY A GOD WHO CANNOT LIE.

SINCE YOU CAN'T KNOW TOMORROW. YOU MUST DO SOMETHING RIGHT WITH TODAY, AND IT WILL EFFECT ALL YOUR TOMORROWS.

PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. COME TO HIM WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART. TRUST HIM WITH YOUR SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND COMMIT TO HIM YOUR EVERY MINUTE OF LIFE.

NOW IS THE TIME. YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING. BE READY, BECAUSE THE UNEXPECTED CAN HAPPEN. YOU COULD HAVE TO FACE GOD SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.