

Funeral Sermons I Have Preached On

Different Occasions. Some Deaths

Happened In Different Ways. Adapt Them

And Use Them.

-- James Meadows

THE FUNERAL SERMON

Introduction

1. The time of death, and what follows (funeral, etc) is a very important time in the life and work of a preacher.
 - a. Generally, the preacher is one of the very first people contacted when a death has occurred.
 - b. What he does, and how he responds, will affect the people involved greatly, and will also affect his effectiveness with a congregation. ,
 - c. I personally know of situations where both help and harm was done, or given.
 - d. In this respect, I would suggest that a preacher respond immediately by going to be with the family, if possible. By this, he shows that he cares and that he wants to help.
2. The funeral sermon can be any style, i.e., it may be topical, textual or expository.
 - a. Whatever style is chosen, the situation and the needs of the people must be kept central.
 - b. This means that the funeral sermon will be a bit different from any other.
 - i. By its very nature, its purpose is evident--to help those who are sorrowing.
 - ii. I would encourage you to keep in mind that people are under duress and may not respond as they normally would, or as you would expect them to.
 - iii. The funeral situation is beset with much emotion, and you must understand that- It can bring out the best, or worst, in people.

Discussion

I. THE BENEFIT OF FUNERALS

A. English statesman, William Gladstone, said: "Show me the manner in which a nation or a

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community cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the character of its people, their respect for laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."

1. The attitudes toward death, and the type of practices at the time of death, are significant projections of group life.

2. We sometimes say, "I don't care what they do with my

- body," etc., but it will matter to others.

B. Various consultants of the National Funeral Directors Association have given these purposes of funerals:

1. "A funeral faces the reality of death--does not avoid it."

2. "The funeral not only is a declaration that a death has occurred, it also is a testimony that a life has been lived."

3. "The funeral provides the fitting climate for expressing our true feelings. Pain suffered in solitude is harder to bear than an anguish which is shared."

4. The funeral tells us sadly about the present, the agony of separation, the reality of death."

C-,The funeral is for the living!

1. It helps in the grieving process.

2. It helps us face death.

3. It gives help and comfort, or should.



D. Edgar N. Jackson, in The Christian Funeral, gives 5 purposes of a funeral.

1. It recognizes that what is done is to meet the social, psychological, and spiritual needs of those who are able to participate in it--the living.
2. It is aware of the powerful emotions that are at work and tries to fulfill the feelings rather than deny them.
3. It is a time for facing death rather than denying it.
4. It does not deny the fact of the event, and it does not deny the validity of the emotions that attend it. Grief is an honorable emotion.
5. It gives the members of the religious community a chance to give evidence of their emotional and spiritual support.

E. As a preacher, you must understand why we have funeral before you can aid in the healing process.

II. THE FUNERAL SERMON

A. It should be shorter than most other sermons, generally.

1. Remember the emotional state people are in. Put yourself in their place.
2. They will remember little you say. They will remember that you were there, that you were kind, that you were comforting.

B. It should be quiet and conversational.

1. This is not a time to yell and rave and rant.
2. - You are there to help not
3. Maybe things are not as they should be; maybe the family is fighting, etc., but this is not the time to try to fix that.
4. The only comfort some funeral sermons bring is when they are over!

C. It should be positive and uplifting.

1. Now, I know that no hope can be given in some cases, for we are called upon to preach the funeral of the worst sinner as well as the best saint.
2. We are to give comfort and uplift and help.

D. It should be as personal as possible.

1. I do not like generic funeral, i.e., the person, family is not mentioned and talked to directly.
2. Now, I know that sometimes we will not even know the deceased.
3. The people need to know that we are concerned about them--

E. The heart of the message should be centered in Scripture.

1. You will want to extend your sympathy, say something about the deceased, etc., but you will want to bring God's word and God's promises to apply to the people.
2. Wiersbe says the key word is "sensitivity."--to the needs of the people.
3. The situations of deaths differ, so the text and sermon will differ.
 - i. Elderly - Prov.,16:31
 - ii. Child - , '1&-! / PY:(3-tr
 - iii. Saint - Rev. 14:13
 - iv. Sinner - What does death teach us?

THE MYSTIC STEP OF DEATH

1 Samuel 20:3

James Meadows

Introduction:

1. Beloved, friends, and neighbors, as we have gathered here to pay the last respects to the deceased one, and speak words of comfort to the loved ones, we are fully aware of the feebleness of human words.
2. Yes, our life is as if we were walking along the brink of a river or the edge of a cliff where one misstep would plunge us to our death.

3. I've known the deceased one only a short while; many of you have known him for many years. Regardless of how long the acquaintance with one may be, death is always a sad occasion.
4. I realize that what I might say will neither help nor hinder the eternal destiny of the deceased one; his spirit is in the hands of a just God. (Her epistle is written - 2 Cor. 3:2). Realizing that such is true, I want us to notice a few things about the mystic step of death.

Discussion:

I. Death Is A Certain Step.

- A. It is appointed unto all men to die (Heb. 9:27).
- B. Our life is a vapor (James 4: 14).
- C. Even though death is certain we are **never** prepared for it.

II. Death Is An Uncertain Step.

- A. We know not when, where or how we shall die.
- B. The deceased one and his family had probably never given thought to his passing in this way. The uncertainty of death (James 4:13,14). (His death at so young an age shows wisdom of Solomon - Ucle. 12:1.)

III. Death Is The Final Earthly Step.

- A. End of earthly life.
- B. End of earthly responsibilities.

IV. Death Is A Parting Step.

- A. Farewell to friends and loved ones.
- B. Farewell to all that is earthly.

V. Death Is A Solitary Step.

- A. It is a step that friends and loved ones cannot take with us. (Use song We Are Going Down the Valley--Lord with Christian.)
- B. It is a step in which our earthly possessions cannot avail us anything.

VI. To The Christian Death Is The Last Step To The Lord Jesus Christ. (To the man that has obeyed the gospel by believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, and is adding the Christian graces.)

- A. Jesus will lead us home (John 14:1-3).
- B. Enjoy his companionship throughout eternity (1 Thess. 4:17). C.

Thus, death to the Christian is a blessing in disguise.

- 1. End of all sorrow, pain, tears, death, etc.
- 2. Paul said, "To live is Christ; to die is gain..." (Phil. 1:21).

Conclusion:

- 1. This one has taken the final step, the step that we his friends, relatives and loved ones cannot take with him. But, we have come to help the ones that are left behind in whatever way we can.
- 2. The beautiful flowers and the many people here are our ways of saying that we sorrow with you and pray that you may find comfort in the fact that this one has not died without hope; as those that are outside of Christ.

STRENGTH FOR LIFE'S BURDENS

FUNERAL

PHIL 4:13

INTRO:

- 1₀ LIFE HAS ITS BURDENS AND SORROWS AND HEARTACHES.
SOME MORE THAN OTHERS.
2. SOMETIMES WE ASK WHY. BUT WE CANNOT FIND THE
SOLUTION IN ASKING WHY. BURDENS, SORROWS,
DEATH ARE HERE. TO
r-ASK WHY IS NOT TO TOUCH THE SOURCE FROM WHENCE STRENGTH
WE NEED COMES. TO ASK WHY MAY WEAKEN BECAUSE WE MAY
NOT
KNOW THE ANSWER.
3. WE NEED STRENGTH, THUS NEED TO LOOK WHERE IT CAN BE FOUND.
4. PAUL GIVES THE ANSWER. LET US THINK NOW OF HOW CHRIST
STRENGTHENS.

WAYS THAT HE STRENGTHENS.

FAITH IN HIM. JN. 14:1-2

1. IN VIEW OF HIS DEATH, AND TO STRENGTHEN HIS DISCIPLE
THAT HE MADE THIS STATEMENT.
2. ABRAHAM FOUND STRENGTH IN FAITH
AS HE STOOD BESIDE
THE LIFELESS BODY OF SARAH. GEN 23: HEB. 11:10.
3. DAVID. 2 SAM 12:15-23
- B. BY HIS EXAMPLE. 1 PET 2:21
NOTE THE WORD SUFFERED
CALLED THE MAN OF SORROWS. ISA. 53:3

C. B Y
2. HIS PROMISE H I S
STRENGTH TO W O R D .
POWERFUL. ROM.
1:16, HEB 4:12, ITHES 4:18

- D. B Y HIS PROMISES 2 PET. 1:4
NOTE THE WORDS PRECIOUS, GREAT, EXCEEDING.
1. HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM - ')

TO ISRAEL, JOSHUA AND CALEB. GAVE THEM
FACE GIANTS.

E. BY HIS POWER. MT. 28:18

1. HIS MIRACLES SHOW HIS POWER--OVER NATURE--OVER DISEASE-
-
OVER DEATH.

F. BY HIS LOVE. JN 13:1 JN 3:16

ROM. 5:6. WHILE WE WERE YET WEAK, JN DUE SEASON,
CHRIST
DIED FOR THE UNGODLY.

REB?. 4:15,16 TOUCHED BY THE FEELING OF OUR ENFORNITES. LET
US DRAW NEAR.

STRENGTH FOR LIFE'S BURDENS

PAGE 2 CONTINUED:

G. BY KNOWING HE IS BY OUR SIDE. HEB. 13:5
IT IS EASIER TO STAND WITH OTHERS THAN TO STAND ALONE.

H. BY INTERCEDING FOR US. HEB. 7:25.
CON: HERE IS THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH NEEDED.

JOURNEY INTO THE NEXT WORLD

1. MOST PEOPLE INTERESTED IN GOING PLACES AND SEEING THINGS.
2. TALK OF GOING TO OTHER PLANETS TODAY. WORLDS. I DO NOT KNOW.

I. CERTAINTY OF TRIP.

1. MANY TRIPS OPTIONAL, BUT THIS ONE NECESSARY. HEB. 9:27, Ps.9:10.
2. WE RETURN FROM. FROM MOST TRIPS, BUT NOT THIS ONE. JAH. 16:22, 2 CORN. 12-23.
3. SOMETIMES TAKE TRIP WITH OTHERS BUT THIS ONE ALONE.

II. PREPARATION SHOULD BE MADE.

1. HARDLY THINK OF MAKING AN EXTENDED TRIP WITHOUT.
2. NEED PREPARATION. ROM. 3:27. IF I SHOULD DIE, WOULD I BE READY?
3. SET TIME FOR MOST TRIPS. CHANCES ARE THIS ONE BE UNEXPECTED.

III. NEED A GUIDE.

1. CAN'T FIND WAY ALONE. PROV. 14:12. JER. 10:23.
2. JESUS ONLY ONE BEEN THIS WAY. MAN WHO SAID HIS MOTHER WENT TO HEAVEN. DADDU ASKED HOW HE KNEW. HAD SHE BEEN BACK TO TELL.

IV. WAY PLAIN.

1. MAN ASKED DIRECTIONS. MAN SAID GO DOWN HERE. TURN RIGHT. NO. GIVE OTHER DIRECTION. THEN FINALLY SAID, YOU JUST CAN'T GET THERE.
2. WAY OF HOLINESS. ISA. 35:8
3. WAY OF REDEEMED.
4. UPWARD WAY.

V. THE END OF JOURNEY.

1. FOR RIGHTEOUS.
 1. SEE /ABRAHAM ETC.
 2. CITY
 3. LEAVE BEHIND ALL TOILS AND CARES, HEARTACHES.
2. FOR WICKED.
 1. CONDEMNATION.

2. TORMENT.
3. FIRE.
4. WICKED.

A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A FUNERAL

Name of deceased _____

Where living when died _____

Date of birth _____ Where born _____

Where grew up _____

A
n _____

y interesting things about childhood _____

When and where baptized _____

or religious affiliation in general _____

Where and how met wife/husband _____

Wife's maiden name _____

When and where married _____

N
a _____

mes of children (in order of birth) _____

Record of jobs (type of work, companies, approximate number of years, etc) _____

(
A
J _____

V
ar _____

io _____

us places lived (general locations, in order if possible, approximate number of years, etc) _____

S
er _____

vice in the church _____

Other hobbies and interests, organizations belonged to, etc _____

memories and reminiscences _____

Record

of

illness (sick _____ for a
long time before death, died suddenly, or what) _____

ate of death

Survived by _____

THE PREACHER'S PERIODICAL

Funeral for _____

1. We have _____ gathered here today because our lives were touched in some way by _____ . Those of us here and many others who wish to be here are his family, his friends, his co-workers, brother and sister in Christ.

a. We all could share something of a personal experience from the many ways that ---- meant to you and the many ways he touched our lives. Our memories will continue to live on in our hearts - and those memories will become more precious, and highly valued in our future.

And each of you could give testimony of how highly you thought of -----by your presence here today.

2. Possibly read obituary.

3. Our sympathy and prayers are with you all in this time of loss. But we also remember that

_____ also leaves all of us as his friends, co-workers, and church family.

4. How do you explain the events of the last few months that have led us to this point?

a. There may not be a explanation for where some of the things we deal with in life come from. Where does disease come from? Why are healthy people affected?

b. We can know a few things.

c. We can know the Bible says **James 4:14 What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**

d. We know that everything that could be done for _____ was done. He had the care of his doctors and nurses and he had the love of his family who was with him to the very end.

5. How can you describes a persons life in such little time? It's impossible to tell it all.

a. _____ life could be described as successful by any standard of the word.

b. Maybe not the wealthiest, most fame, not the oldest. But he had other qualities that prepared better for the journey he has taken into eternity.

c. Life was good to ----- . He had a good long life on this earth. Some have lived longer, many have not lived as long. We can be thankful for the length of life he enjoyed.

d. What _____ made _____ life so successful?

1. _____ was success because of his **relationship with his Lord.**

a. He is the recipient of some of the greatest promises in the world. .

Rev 2:10 Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

b. Nothing can give more comfort and hope for a family during times like these than to know that their loved one died in the Lord.

c. _____ gave his life to the Lord. He put his faith in Jesus Christ.

He put his Lord on in baptism and lived faithfully to that commitment.

He comes from a family with a Christian heritage and I know he wants that for his family. His families dedication to the Lord's work comes out in subtle ways.

2. _____ was successful because of his love for his family.

He and his wife fulfilled their vow till death do us part. She was a faithful companion and supportive wife up to the end.

_____ 3. _____ was dedicated to his work. He was

4. **One last thing** I would note in _____ life. He was a man of integrity, a character. He was a man who worked hard in a quiet way, etc. He truly touched many people in so many positive ways.

5. The 23 rd Psalm has been one of the most treasured passages in all of Holy Scripture.

a. It is among the most familiar, so much so that even people who are not religious or very knowledgeable about Scripture recognize these words.

b. They are among the most comforting, often being quoted in times of trouble or loss, and almost always being read when we gather in an auditorium for a funeral.

c. There are many images in this psalm which hold particular meaning.

I. **First image** comes from the verse, **Ps 23:4, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."**

A. It would be so wonderful if God would simply promise to us that we would never go through difficult times.

1. But we do go through great and terrible difficulties all of the time, and God constantly warns us of these dangers and difficulties in His Word.

2. Peter wrote in his first letter (**1 Pet 4:12**) "**Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.**"

3. The Bible constantly tells us that there will be difficult times in life, and Psalm 23 voices such a warning. It does not say, "**God will keep you from danger,**" but rather it describes that there will come times, and they come for all of us, when we feel like we are walking through a dark, dangerous valley -- a "**valley of the shadow of death.**"

4. But what the Word of God does make very clear is that as we move through such times, God is with us. God comforts us and sustains us.

B. "**As we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for YOUR rod and YOUR staff comfort me.**

1. The "valley of the shadow of death" is literally the valley of the deep shadows. This verse says, literally — "**when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death**" — it is when not "if" - it is a certainty.

2. Today may be part of one of the walks though the valley of deep shadows

for you, but we are assured that He is there to comfort us if we call upon Him.

3. Earlier in the Psalm David has spoken of God in the third person "**He**" **makes me lie down, "He" leads me, "He" will refresh me.**
4. But when David enters into the valley of the shadow he changes to the second person by saying "you" are with me.
5. Before David had spoken about God but now he is speaking to God.
 - a. **your rod and your staff, comfort me...**
 - b. **You prepare a table before me. You anoint my head...**
6. In recent days, _____ has passed through the "**valley of the shadow of death.**" But he was never alone. Not only did he have his family, he had the Spirit of God at his side, like a shepherd who kept close watch on him.
7. _____ faced this valley with faith and bravery. He had an uncommon sense of peace and assurance as he passed through the valley of death.
8. The fear of death is the greatest of all fears and it is universal to all. But the one who has a personal relationship with the Lord does not need to be afraid. We are assured that the Lord walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. We are assured that He is there to comfort us, if we call upon him.

II. **A second image** in the Twenty-third Psalm to which I would call your attention is this: **Ps 23:5 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

- A. The Bible speaks of a time when all of God's children will enjoy His eternal care.
 1. With this image we make the journey from the pasture to the palace. He is no longer just the good Shepherd but he is now the gracious host.
 2. We are told that in his presence all hostility and strife are gone.
 3. _____ is now enjoying that peace.
 4. Jesus promised, "**Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither be afraid.**" (John 14:27)
 5. He said he had glimpsed a time in the future when all of them would be together in heaven, and all their earthly conflicts would disappear.
 6. **Rev 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**

III. The third image in the Twenty-third Psalm which I would share today is this:

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A. Not every one can say, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," with that kind of assurance and boldness.

1. Only those who have that personal relationship with the shepherd.
2. Beyond this life is the Father's house that Jesus spoke of, a place that we refer to as Heaven.
3. Jesus said "**John 14:1-4, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."**
4. The word "dwell" means literally to settle down and be at home.
5. has the assurance that today his dwelling in eternity, he is now home.
6. When we come to the end of our way, whether it is soon or years in the future, there is the promise that we too can settle down and be at home with God forever.
7. But, you know there is a catch, right. It is conditional on having the right relationship with the Shepherd.

B. The grief we feel and all the emotions that go with that grief can tempt us to thoughts of unbelief and decisions that bring deep and dark sadness.

1. Nevertheless, the goodness and mercy of God will follow us all the days of our life, helping us to work through our grief and sorrow.
2. For it is not God's will that anyone living or dead be separated from him forever.
3. We have gathered in this hour, not only to grieve the death of-----
but to give thanks to God for his life among us and for his life now with God.
4. We have gathered, not only to mourn over our loss, but to give thanks to God for how full life was when he was in our midst.
5. We have gathered, not only to consider the shortness and uncertainty of life, but to give thanks to God for eternal life in heaven.

Prayer

Order of Service

Funeral of MRS. EVELYN MCPHERSON

1. SONG GODS FAMILY
3. SONG REMIND ME DEAR LORD
5. MINISTER JAMES MEADOWS
7. SONG THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

7 , S O N G B E C A U S E H E L I V E S
8 , ASK
FRIENDS TO STAND AND THEY WILL BE DIRECTED BY THE 9.

THE TWO APPOINTMENTS
Hebrews 9:27

James Meadows

Introduction:

1. Hearts are broken and grief-stricken on occasions like this. Close friends and neighbors of the family strive for words to express concern, but fail to find the one needed.
2. Friends, we are gathered to do the last that human hands can do for the deceased one. Her life has been long on the earth, but then just a vapor (Psa. 90:10; James 4:14).
3. I did not know the deceased one personally, thus it would ill behoove me to try to tell you about her. Those that knew her have spoken to me saying that she was a faithful Christian and a woman well thought of.
4. We do not know what life is. We know that with it we stand, without it we lie here (Gen. 35:18).
5. We do know that life leaves the body as it has left this one and knowing this we want to talk about the two appointments we all must keep. (Emphasize that we understand about appointments.)

Discussion:

1. Death is the First Appointment.

A. This one has already kept the first appointment and her life is known and read of all men (2 Cor. 3:2). It cannot be changed.

B. Two ways to look at this appointment:

1. The sinner can see it as:

- a. The end of all opportunity to prepare.
- b. With fear and dread because it means the end of all opportunity to prepare to keep the second appointment, thus condemnation (Matt. 25:41; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

2. The Christian can see it as:

- a. The putting off of the earthly tabernacle (2 Cor. 5:1).
- b. As a gain instead of a loss (Phil. 1:21).
- c. As a step closer to the enjoyment of that prepared home (John 14:13).

11. The Judgment is the Second Appointment

A. All men will be resurrected (John 5:28,29).

B. All men will stand before the great white throne of God (Rev. 20:11-15).

III. In View of These Two Appointments All Men Ought to be Sure Their Name is in the Book of Life

A. Only those whose names are in this book will enter heaven (Rev. 21:27).

B. One gets his name enrolled in this book by keeping the commandments (Rev. 22:14).

C. One keeps his name enrolled in this book by faithfulness (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion:

1. Friends, is your name enrolled in the book of life and are you ready to keep the two appointments?
2. Our prayer for those that remain behind is that they may realize that these flowers, our presence, is but our feeble way of saying that we

A QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR A FUNERAL

Comforting the Bereaved

by David Roper

Some funerals are harder than others. There are, for instance, funerals where you did not know the deceased. I have always thought it a doubly-sad occasion when, during a funeral service, the preacher apologizes by saying, "I never met the deceased," or "Most of you knew the deceased better than I." Again there are funerals where the deceased was not a Christian. Other "hard" situations might come to mind. I have found a questionnaire to be a great help in the situations described—plus a help in *all* the funerals I do.

Some time ago I decided that the usual obituary sounds cold, mechanical, and inadequate. As a result, when I made my initial visit with the family I started asking additional questions, making notes on any scrap of paper that was handy. I found, however, that I often forgot key items, so I eventually worked up the questionnaire that follows.

I gather the whole family together (or as many as are present), and we talk about the deceased. I not only ask for facts, but I also ask for details, little stories, comments. The questionnaire gives me a procedure to follow. Sometimes facts emerge in answer to one question that relate to another question. If the reminiscences are flowing, I try not to halt them. I just jot down the information given whenever it fits. When the thoughts begin to dry up, I glance at the empty blanks and ask questions to

Generally, the information asked for is sufficient to keep the conversation going. Sometimes, however, further encouragement is needed. For instance, after "Special memories and reminiscences," I may say, "If you were asked to summarize _____ in one word or phrase, what would that word or phrase be?" or

"When you think of _____, what is the first thing that comes to mind?"

Sometimes the memories called for are humorous. My experience is that there is comfort in recalling the information asked for.

Some of the information, such as "Survivors," can be gotten from the funeral home if it is not readily at hand in the home. As soon as I have the blanks filled as best as can be at the time, I ask if anyone has anything to add. I thank them, have a prayer, and leave.

It might be noted that this questionnaire does not include the arrangements for the service. You may find it convenient to add to the questionnaire such details as location of service and burial, pallbearers, singers, favorite songs, etc.

When I am preparing my funeral message, I rearrange the information given, basically in chronological order, to give a brief story of the person's life and death. As I start the funeral

"prime the pump" again.

service, I stress that this is a *reminiscent*

service. If the person is not a Christian, I do not have to "preach the person into heaven"—or hell. I s., give back to the family the information they gave me,

including their own tributes (attributed to them). I then have a prayer and preach a general sermon to the living with only minimal mention of the deceased from that point on. If the person was a Christian, I can continue the tributes even during the sermon.

I have received many favorable comments on the approach suggested. It adds structure to the preparation which must be made for the funeral service. Also, it is amazing how comforting it is for people to hear their own thoughts echoed from you. Perhaps this too may be of some help as you minister to the sorrowful. The questionnaire is found on the following page and arranged so you can easily Xerox it for future use.

1. She

She was a caring person

She was well-informed.

She was a faithful Christian.

She looked forward to a better home.

Read 1 Cor. 15: 51-58; 1 Thes. 4: 13-18

Conclusion

Mention the care Virginia took of her mother.

No regrets.

THE DEATH OF A SOLDIER

Job 14:1,2; Psa. 90:1-12

Nov. 6, 1968

INTRODUCTION:

1. TODAY, WE HAVE GATHERED, NOT TO BURY THE BODY, BUT TO PAY A TRIBUTE OF LOVE AND MEMORY, AND TO CALL TO OUR MINDS ANDEARTS THE. YOUNG LIFE WHICH LIVED IN OUR MIDST.
2. TODAY, YOU SIT IN THE SHADOW OF A BLACK NIGHT OF SORROW AND GRIEF, YET THERE ARE MANY PRECIOUS MEMORIES FROM THE LIFE OF THIS YOUNG MAN THAT HELPS TO LIFT THE BURDENS OF THE HOUR.
3. ("NOT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD IS GOD'S INTENTIONAL WILL. IT IS NOT GOD'S INTENDED WILL THAT MAN BE KILLED PREMATURELY, BUT THAT HE LIVE A HAPPY, ABUNDANT,

44J

AND ETERNAL LIFE. GOD PLACED US, HIS CHILDREN, IN" ' W O R L D , WITH NATURAL LAWS THAT REQUIRE UNDERSTANDING AND PROPER HANDLING TO BE USED. THE LAW OF GRAVITY IS NECESSARY FOR MAN TO LIVE ON THE PLANET: IF IT IS STRETCHED OR DISREGARDED, OR NOT PROPERLY UTILIZED, IT CAN CAUSE DISASTER. MAN WAS CREATED FREE, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP INTO A MATURE PERSONALITY., B T THE ACCOMPANYING SIN AND ABUSE OF MAN HAS CAUSED GREED, INJUSTICE, WAR, THE HUMAN RACE HAS THE STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME WAR. WAR IS MAN'S MAKING, NOT GOD'S INTENTION. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, 11--- KCALEMS CIRCUMSTANTIAL WILL THAT MEN STRIVE FOR PEACE, RESTRAIN EVIL TYRANTS, AND BUILD

BROTHERHOOD. IN THE PROCESSES, SOME MEN, SUCH AS THIS ONE, LOSE THEIR LIVES.
ALL

LIFE IS SO INTERTWINED."

4. WE MEET IN THIS SERVICE TODAY:

DISCUSSION:

I. TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THIS ONE WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS NATION.

- A. "NATIONS HAVE ALWAYS PAID THE HIGHEST TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY. WE WHO LIVE IN THE TIMES OF WAR CANNOT QUESTION THEIR MOTIVE AND THEIR CONDUCT. WE CANNOT ESCAPE THE CONVICTION THAT THOSE WHO DIE, IN A VERY REAL SENSE GIVE THEIR LIVES THAT WE MIGHT LIVE. THEY ARE OUR SUBSTITUTES IN THE HARD BATTLE FOR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL EXISTENCE."

- B. WE MEET IN THIS SERVICE THAT WE MAY PAY OUR PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTED ONE.
MANY OF YOU HAVE KNOWN THE HAPPY, EAGER HOURS OF THIS ONE IN HIS YOUTH.
AS

NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY, WE SEEK TO EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP
AND

WORDS OF COMFORT TO THE FAMILY.

41. TO BE REMINDED THAT LIFE IS A GREAT BATTLEFIELD.

- A. THIS FLAG-DRAPED CASKET AND THE MILITARY ESCORT REMIND US OF THIS ACT. PART OF OUR EARTHLY DISCIPLINE IS TO FACE FOES, FIGHT BATTLES.
- B. THE BIBLE PICTURES THE SPIRITUAL CONFLICT AS A WAR.
 - 1. THE LORD JESUS IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE ARMY. Heb. 2:10.
 - 2. EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A SOLDIER IN THE ARMY. 2 Tim. 2:3,4.
 - 3. THE DEVIL AND HIS FORCES ARE THE ENEMY. Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8.
 - 4. THE ARMOR IS BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE. Eph. 6:10-18.
 - 5. THE FINAL ENEMY TO BE OVERCOME IS DEATH. (1 Cor. 15:26) AND CHRIST HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE. 1 Cor. 15:20.

III. TO PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO GREATER DEDICATION.

A. WE NEED TO PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE IDEALS FOR WHICH THIS BOY FOUGHT AND DIED.

1. NOBODY CAN SAY A GOOD WORD FOR WARS. THEY ARE DESTRUCTIVE, TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE. THE DREAM OF IDEALISTS THROUGH THE AGES HAS BEEN FOR A WORLD FREED FROM WAR.

2. WHILE WARS ARE IN PROGRESS, WE INSIST THAT THERE NEVER BE ANOTHER. WHEN PEACE COMES, WE FORGET OUR GOOD INTENTIONS AND REST BACK IN WHAT COMFORT IS GIVEN US.

3. A SERVICE SUCH AS THIS GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE DREAM OF A WARLESS WORLD. LINCOLN PUT IT LIKE THIS: "IT IS FOR US, THE LIVING, RATHER TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK, THAT THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE

DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US, THAT FROM THESE
HONORED

DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE TO WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL
MEASURE OF DEVOTION: THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD,

SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM: AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE,

BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH."

B. WE ALSO NEED TO PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE BATTLE AGAINST SIN WHICH CAUSES
WAR.

CONCLUSION:

1. MENTION FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
PRESENT. 2_

URGENCY OF ACCEPTING CHRIST IN YOUTH

Eccle: ;2:1

1. Scripture reading at the appropriate time Deut. 31:6; Psa 27:1-4; 46:1-3; ¹²1:1-8; Eccle. 11:9-12:1.

(; 'Be still and know that I am God.' (Psa. 46:10). In the hour of bereavement there is nothing that one can do but wait quietly with reverent faith in God and with a tender affection for the beloved one who has passed on. If one knows God, all is clear; if one cannot know Him, all may be fear." ea.†It is inevitable but to one who knows God, it is but one phase in Life; if it is by no means the end of Life. When I first came to work with this congregation, Ed Reid was 11 years of age and this year he graduated from high school. On Oct. 21, 1962 became a Christian. During the years he has tried to live the Christian life. Ed realized that he fell short many times, sometimes in a public way, and on April 28, 1968, Ed publically confessed his unfaithfulness and asked our prayers in his behalf for strength to be a stronger person. He had been a part of my teenage Bible class on Wednesday evening and heard the sermon this past Sunday morning. Then in the very prime of youth the tragic incident took his life from us on Sunday afternoon.

. His father and mother received the shocking news with the same reaction that parents of all ages have, and will receive, the news of the death of their children.

A. When Joseph was 17 years of age, his brothers sold him into Egypt and brought his coat of many colors unto the father. When Jacob saw the coat he said, "It is my son's coat: An evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, for I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

B. When David received news of the death of his son Absalom "the king was much moved, and went up to the chambers over the gate, and wept; and as he went, Thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son Absalom; would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son! (2 Sam. 18:33).

G. When Job received news of the death of all his sons and daughters "he arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away," blessed be the name of the Lord. " (Job 1:20,21).

4. The death of a young person leads us to realize that death has no fixed seasons, but it does emphasize:

DISCUSSION:

I. THE URGENCY OF ACCEPTING CHRIST IN YOUTH.

1. James pictured it as a vapor. Ja. 4:13-15. ^{qg;} 1.dgt _____ 4 ,

2. Job said "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." Job 7:6. Because life is uncertain

the time or way of death.

1. There is nothing so uncertain as Heb. 9:27.

2. Yet nothing so certain as death, to God for life. Ecc. 11:9-12:1. Because Young people are responsible

THE EVER READY NEED OF GOD'S COMFORT AND STRENGTH.

A. Paul said, "I know whom I have believed..." 2 Tim. 1:12.

B . 1. Two men were on a large ocean going vessel a few years ago - one a famous actor, the other a retired preacher. The actor was a capable reader and was doing some when she was asked to read Psa. 23. He agreed if the old preacher would. When he finished his reading there was loud applause. When the old preacher finishing there were tears and silence. The actor said,

C . "I know the 23rd Psalm, but he knows the shepherd of the 23rd Psalm.

2. What a comfort to know the shepherd, a time like this.

B. All Things Work Together For Good To Them That Love God. Rom. 8:28

1. All that happens is not good.
2. All that happens we cannot understand.

3. But the Christian believes that all works for good in God's great plan.

C. The Hope Of The Life To Come. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; v. 14:13.

CONCLUSION:

Poem "YOUNG MAN, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW".

Young man You'll never know the happiness you brought us, The joy: the hope
and love that came into our home;

The many precious lessons which you-taught us,
Today though memories seem like the gloam!

Young man you'll never know our grief at your sad leaving,

The
The dregs of sorrow in our cup of woe:

Through heavy disappointment, yet believing.

'Tis better over yonder where you go!

Young man you'll never know the cares of life, nor sorrows,

Temptations, and ails troubles to endure

The Holocaust of war with all its horrors--

Thank God: From all of these you are secure:

Young man, though all our hearts today are drowned in sorrow,

And dashed our hopes of life in heartache sore,

Out there we, too, can come some glad tomorrow

And be with you and God forevermore!

Jettie Es Williams

2. Close with comments about large audience, Beautiful flowers, kind words, as man's feeble efforts to

help you in thie'trying.hour.

SHOT TO DEATH

SHOT TO DEATH

Introduction.

1. "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that cloth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Deut. 31:6) "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1) "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. There fore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains be **Wⁱft4e4shaken** with the swelling thereof. Selah." (Psa. 4⁶:1-3)

2. Psalms,121:1-8

Discussion.

I. "BE STILL AND KNIGHT THAT I AM GOD." Psa. 46:10.

IN THE HOUR OF BEREAVEMENT THERE IS NOTHING THAT ONE CAN DO BUT WAIT QUIETLY WITH REVERENT FAITH IN GOD AND WITH A TENDER AFFECTION FOR THE BELOVED ONE THAT HAS PASSED ON. IF ONE KNOWS GOD, ALL IS CLEAR; IF ONE CANNOT KNOW HIM, ALL MAY BE FEAR.

WHEN MY FAMILY AND I FIRST CAME TO MIDDLETON IN 1956 TO WORK WITH THIS CONGREGATION RONALD WAS ABOUT 6 YEARS OF AGE, AND WAS 10 WHEN WE LEFT. I HAVE NOT BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH HIM SINCE THAT TIME, BUT HAVE VISITED HIS MOTHER IN THE HOSPITAL AT JACKSON AND HIS HOME WHITTE IN MEETINGS HERE.

G. TODAY, YOU HIS PARENTS, AND FRIENDS SIT IN THE SHADOW OF A BLACK NIGHT OF SORROW AND GRIEF. YOU HAVE NO DOUBT ASKED THE QUESTION OVER AND OVER AGAIN--WHY?? WHAT HAVE I DONE THAT BROUGHT ABOUT AN OCCASION LIKE THIS? WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN?

II. KEEP THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND.

A. "NOT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD IS GOD'S INTENTIONAL WILL. IT IS NOT GOD'S **ifft** INTENDED WILL THAT MAN BE KILLED PREMATURELY, BUT THAT HE LIVE A HAPPY, ABUNDANT AND ETERNAL LIFE. GOD PLACED US, HIS CHILDREN, IN A WORLD, WITH NATURAL LAWS THAT REQUIRE UNDERSTANDING AND PROPER HANDLING TO BE USED. THE LAW OF GRAVITY IS NECESSARY FOR MAN TO LIVE ON THE PLANET: IF IT IS STRETCHED OR DISREGARDED, OR NOT PROPERLY UTILIZED, IT CAN CAUSE DISASTER. MAN WAS CREATED FREE, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP INTO A MATURE PERSONALITY, BUT THE ^{ACCOMPANY*}ING SIN AND ABUSE OF MAN HAS CAUSED GREED, INJUSTICE, WAR AND DEATH.

B. I AM CONFIDENT THAT RONALD'S PARENTS RECEIVED THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH JUST LIKE PARENTS OF ALL AGES HAVE, AND WILL RECEIVE, THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Li WHEN JOSEPH WAS 17 YEARS OF AGE, HIS BROTHERS SOLD HIM INTO EGYPT AND BROUGHT HIS COAT OF MANY COLORS UNTO THE FATHER. WHEN JACOB SAW THE COAT HE SAID, "IT IS MY SON'S COAT: AN EVIL BEAST HATH DEVoured HIM; JOSEPH IS WITHOUT DOUBT RENT IN PIECES. AND JACOB RENT HIS CLOTHES AND PUT SACKCLOTH UPON HIS LOINS, AND MOURNED FOR HIS SON MANY DAYS. AND ALL HIS SONS AND ALL HIS DAUGHTERS ROSE UP TO COMFORT HIM; BUT HE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED: AND HE

PLEASE

SAID, FOR I
WILL GO DOWN INTO THE UNTO MY SON MOURNING. THUS HIS FATHER WEPT FOR
HIM.'

(Ge n. 37:29-36) 64,9y/1...:-

2. KING DAVID HAD A REBELLIOUS SON NAMED ABSALOM. HE FIRST KILLED HIS ^BROTHER AMNON. HE THEN WOODED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AWAY FROM DAVID AND PERSUADED THEM TO MAKE HIM KING. HE THEN DEFILED PUBLICALLY HIS FATHER'S CONCUBINES. FINALLY ^A BATTLE RAGED IN WHICH ABSALOM WAS TO BE KILLED, BUT DAVID TOLD HIS CAPTAINS "DEAL GENTLY FOR MY SAKE WITH THE YOUNG MAN, EVEN WITH ABSALOM." (2 Sam. 18:5) When runners faintly CAME TO DAVID THE FIRST QUESTION HE ASKED WAS "IS THE YOUNG MAN SAFE?" WHEN NEWS FINALLY CAME THAT ABSALOM WAS DEAD DAVID WENT INTO THE CHAMBER OVER THE GATE AND WEPT: "O MY SON ABSALOM, MY SON, MY SON ABSALOM/ WOULD GOD I HAD DIED FOR THEE, O ABSALOM, MY SON, MY SON!"

3. WHEN JOB RECEIVED NEWS THAT ALL HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS WERE DEAD "HE AROSE AND RENT HIS MANTLE, AND SHAVED HIS HEAD, AND FELL DOWN UP ON THE GROUND, AND WORSHIPPED, AND SAID, NAKED CAME I ▶ UT OF MY MOTHER'S WOMB, AND NAKED SHALL I RETURN THITHER: THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY, BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD." (Job 1:20,21)

C. DEATH IS APPOINTED UNTO MAN. (Heb. 9:27) IT COMES IN MANY WAYS AND AT VARIOUS TIMES, BUT THE DEATH OF A YOUNG PERSON, REGARDLESS OF HOW IT MAY COME, REMINDS US AFRESH OF MANY TRUTHS WE ALL NEED TO KEEP IN MIND.

THE URGENCY OF ACCEPTING CHRIST IN YOUTH. Eccle. 12:1.

- A. Because life is short. Jas. 4:13-15; Job. 7:6.
- B. Because life is uncertain. There is nothing so uncertain as the time or my of death.

IV. THE EVERY READY NEED OF GOD'S COMFORT AND STRENGTH.

A. Paul said, "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED . . ." 2 Tim. 1:12.

1. TWO MEN WERE ON A LARGE OCEAN GOING VESSELL A FEW YEARS AGO--ONE A FAMOUS ACTOR, THE OTHER, A RETIRED PREACHER. THE ACTOR WAS A CAPABLE READER AND WAS DOING;SOME WHEN ASKED TO READ PSA. 23. HE AGREED IF THE OLD PREACHER WOULD. WHEN HE FINISHED HIS READING THERE WAS LOUD APPLAUSE. WHEN THE OLD PREACHER FINISHED THERE WERE TEARS AND SILENCE. WHEN THE ACTOR WAS ASKED WHY THE DIFFERENCE HE REPLIED, "I know the 23rd Psalm, but he knows the shepherd of the 23rd Psalms." He had learned to depend on God as we all must do for the strength and courage to carry us through such trials.

2. What comfort to know a shepherd such as this at a time like this.

B. All things work together for good to them that love God. Rom. 8:28.

1. All that happens is not good.
2. All that happens we can't understand nor see how good can come out of it.
3. But the Christian believes that all things work together for good in God's eternal plan for man.

131*

Conclusion.

1. Presence of many friends and neighbors. Beautiful floral arrangements

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR ROBERT KIRK

Introduction.

1. Today, we have gathered, not just to bury a body, but to pay a tribute of love

and memory, and to call to our minds and hearts the life of Robert Kirk.

2. Today, you sit in the shadow of a black night of sorrow and grief, y there are many precious

memories **Ohm** the life of Robert that helps to lift the burdens of the hour.

a. Robert was a man that loved his wife and children and was concerned about their welfare.

b. He was one that was always honest and friendly to those with whom he associated.

c. He was a hard worker and wanted to do the best job possible in whatever he **did**.

d. He was basically concerned about Either people.

e. All these characteristics he passess on to his boys, his wife and his family. 3. But still there are questions

that cry for an answer:

I. Why did it Happen? Keep some thoughts in mind

A. The answersto some questions are not always possible, but there is one thing we can know for sure.

B. "Not everything that happens **in** this world is God's intentional will. It is not God will that man be killed prematurely, but that he live a happy, abundant, and eternal life. God placed us, his children, in a world, with natural laws that require understanding and proper handling to be used. The law of gravity is necessary for man to live en the planet; If it is stretched or disregarded, or net properly utilized, it can cuase disaster. Man was created free, in order to develop into a mature personality. But the accompanying sin and abuse of man has caused greed, injustice, war and death. .

C. People have received nrws of death in all ages with disbelief, anguish, and shock.

1., Jacob received news of Joseph (even thought **not** dead)---Gen. 37:29-3 6)

2. David received news of the death of Absalom and wept: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my **son**." (2 Sam. 18) .

II. "WHAT IF I HAD . . ."

/14 Had done this **or** if I had been at a certain place at a certain time.

B. What if I had been more observant then I might have prevented this **or** that

C. All these questions pass through the minds of those left behind, but ^Donna knows that she did what she could. How wonderful it is that a person can know this and not have to say "I meant to do this or "I meant to **do** that."

III. WHAT BENEFITS CAN THERE BE IN A DEATH LIKE THIS? Lessons that Robert would want us to learn from his death.

A. Death is certain-----Heb. 9:27.

B. Death is uncertain

C. Life must go on and even in the presence of death we can make resolutions.

1. David stated: He had done all that he could while the child lived.

Now that the child was dead he determined to make the most of it.

2. Regardless of when death may **occur** we need to be prepared.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Jan. 30, 1981

Kelley Fowler

INTRODUCTION

1. The Psalmist said: "Be still and know that I am God." (Psa. 46:10) In the hour of bereavement there is nothing that one can do but wait quietly with reverent faith in God and with a tender affection for the beloved one who has passed on. If one knows God, all is clear; if one cannot know him, all may be fear. Death is inevitable but to one who knows God, it is but one phase in life; it is by no means the end of life.
2. "Not everything that happens in this world is God's intentional will. It is not God's intended will that man be killed or die prematurely, but that he live a happy, abundant and eternal life. God placed us, his children, in a world with natural laws that require understanding and proper handling to be used. The law of gravity is necessary for man to live on the planet; if it is stretched or disregarded, or not properly utilized, it can cause disaster. There are laws that govern the health and welfare of the physical body, but when this body is invaded by germs and diseases of various kinds, the natural laws are often violated and suffering and death occur.
3. The great apostle Paul said: "For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21) Death is God's great blessing in disguise to those whose bodies have become diseased and worn out.
4. Even though Kelley's mother, brother, aunt and uncle, of the family members were at his side the moment he died, yet they received the end as parents and loved ones of all ages have done.
 - a. When Joseph was 17 years of age, his brothers sold him into Egypt and brought his coat of many colors unto the father covered with blood. When Jacob saw the coat he said, "It is my son's coat: an

evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted: and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him." (Gen. 37:29-36)

- b. When David received news of the death of his son Absalom he went into the room over the gate and wept: "O my son Absalom, My son, My son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, My son, my son!" (2 Sam. 18)
- c. When Job received news that all his sons and daughters were dead "He arose and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed by the name of the Lord." (Job 1:20,21)

5. We are all saddened on this occasion by Kelley's death, but: DISCUSSION

I. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE WAY HE LIVED Phil. 1:20

A. HE DEMONSTRATED GREAT FAITH. IN GOD BY THE WAY HE LIVED.

- 1. His life was an open book and I have never heard anyone accuse him of hypocrisy.
- 2. He was always present at the services of the church, many times when the pain was great.
- 3. His friends liked him because he cared.

B. HE DEMONSTRATED A LOVE FOR LIFE AND FOR GOD'S CREATURES.

- 1. Kelley had a goat, chickens, ducks, etc., and they could feel his love for them.
- 2. The tenderness and kindness of Kelley's life was truly seen here.

C. HE DEMONSTRATED A LOVE FOR THE FAMILY OF WHICH HE WAS A PART,

1. Kelley and Ike were very close as brothers, and even though Ike had his own home, they talked to each other about every day.
2. He was always concerned about his father's welfare, before his father died, and continued to care for his mother.
3. Love could be felt in the home of which Kelley was a part.

D. HE IS A DEMONSTRATION OF ONE WHO LIVED AND DIED, KNOWING THAT HIS FAMILY DID ALL THEY COULD FOR HIM. THEY DID THEIR BEST!!

E. HE DEMONSTRATED PRIDE AND A SENSE OF DIGNITY, YET A HUMILITY THAT MADE HIM ACCESSIBLE TO OTHERS.

F. ON JANUARY 18, 1980, AT THE FUNERAL OF KELLEY'S FATHER, I SUMMED UP HIS LIFE BY SAYING "HE WAS A GOOD MAN." KELLEY WALKED IN THE WAY OF HIS FATHER.

G. YES, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR HIS LIFE.

II. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE WAY HE FACED DEATH AND DIED.

A. HE DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT ONE'S FAITH IN GOD DOES NOT DEPEND ON UNDERSTANDING ALL THE WHYS.

1. In the long ago Job lost everything - his possessions, family, health, and friends - and he couldn't understand why he, a righteous man, was suffering so, but his faith enabled him to accept God's will, even though he never fully understood why.
2. David fretted when he saw the prosperity of the wicked (Psa. 73:1-3), but when he saw the end of the wicked, he left everything in God's hands.
3. Kelley must have often raised the question of why, but his faith enabled him to accept the fact that God hasn't revealed all the whys. (Deut. 29:29)

B. HE DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT ONE CAN COURAGEOUSLY FACE DEATH IF ONE HAS TRULY SUBMITTED HIS WILL TO GOD'S WILL.

1. Jesus Christ asked God to remove the cup of death from him, but he was willing to submit himself to God's will and face death. (Matt. 26:26-42)
2. Paul could courageously face death. (2 Tim. 4:14-16)
3. Kelley wanted to live as much as anybody but he was willing to accept God's will as the final authority.

C. HE DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT ONE CAN TALK ABOUT HIS OWN DEATH WITHOUT BECOMING HARD AND SOUR IN THE PROCESS.

I. Kelley hoped from the beginning that he could be cured.

2. But Kelley gradually realized and accepted the fact that he was not going to get well.
3. But in all this he never lost his sense of humor and his love for God and for life.

D. HE DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT ONE CAN, REGARDLESS OF HOW TERRIBLE HIS PROBLEMS, STILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT OTHERS.

1. Kelley never began to feel sorry for himself but continued to be concerned about others through it all.
2. Only about three months before his death did he finally say, "I need to give up my Bible class, because I may not be able to be there all the time."
3. One of the doctors that waited upon Kelley said, after his death: "He was always thinking more about other people, than he was about himself."

E. HE DEMONSTRATED TO US THE STRENGTH TO FACE LIFE AND DEATH IF ONE HAS A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. (Phil. 4:13)

1. He became a Christian years ago. (Mark 16:16; Rom, 10:10; Acts 2:38)
2. He continued faithfully in service to God. (1 John 1:7-9; Rev. 2:10)
3. He believed that God was with him. (Heb. 13:5,6)

CONCLUSION

"YOUNG MAN, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.."

Young man you'll never know the happiness you brought us, The joy: the hope and love that came into our home; The many precious lessons which you taught us, Today though memoried tears seem like the glom!

Young man you'll never know our grief at your sad leaving, The dregs of sorrow in our cup of woe:

Through heavy disappointment, yet believing

Tis better over yonder where you go!

Young man you'll never know the cares of life, nor sorrows, Temptations, trials, troubles to endure,

The Holocaust of war with all its horrors--

Thank God! From all of these you are secure!

Young man, though all our hearts today are drowned in sorrow, And dashed our hope of life in heartaches sore,

Out there we, too, can come some glad tomorrow

And be with you and God forevermore!

•

Jettie E. Williams

. Close with comments about large audience, beautiful flowers, kind words, as man's feeble efforts to help you in this trying hour.



Memories of Clint Newbill by his
daughter Linda
Any /.; /19,/

Clint was special to many people in public and often private ways. He was a man who loved life, loved family and friends and who lived his beliefs. He was an honest man who never fudged on the truth. He believed in an honest days work and by doing things by the "book". He was a generous man who quietly helped people with needs and never spoke of it again. He gave sacrificially of his time and money often when he had little. He always believed in making time to visit with family and friends especially those he called his elders. Daddy loved his friends and spoke lovingly of them through the years. He was proud to be an American, proud to have served his country and believed in taking part in civic and community activities. I think my Dad demonstrated unconditional love better than anyone I have ever known. He loved me and others no matter how we failed him. He never spoke harshly of an injustice or hurt but somehow made peace within himself and forgave us all. His favorite saying was "all things will work out for the best" and he lived expecting it to be true.

My Daddy's last gift to me is a treasure house of sweet and precious childhood memories. There are many but today I remember him making shadow puppets on the wall when I was sick with the measles. I remember him blowing the whistle on the train as a goodnight to Mother and me when he worked the 11 to 7 shift. I remember funny stories at the dinner table about his friends at the shop and all their nicknames. I remember soaping a Christmas tree with detergent to make it look like snow. I remember his patience as I tried to sit still and be quiet when we were fishing. I remember drives on Sunday afternoons in the '50 Plymouth and stopping to get an ice cream cone at Bakers Drug Store. I remember sitting in the barber shop waiting on his hair cuts. I especially remember the excitement of opening the fruit jar that held the year's collection of coins and bills for the yearly vacation. He believed in making time for us to have fun and whether we had a little or alot in the jar we spent what was saved and always had a great time. Dadd^y loved a q̄(56̄crtime, loved a crowd and loved being in the middle of any gathering. I remember him entertaining friends with mirror tricks that made us all laugh until we cried. He especially loved the crazy antics of my Mother and her sisters only--to smile and shake his head. As an adult I have tender memories of long walks on the beach, shell hunting, and silently watching Gulf sunsets.

Clint Newbill was a wonderful and loving father, a devoted husband, a true friend and a Christian with a quiet-and secure faith.

I believe the thing that all of us will remember about Daddy is his beautiful smile. Even as he prepared to leave us, he closed his p/̄ eyes and smiled at God's angels.



Brother T. L. Boles
February 3, 1974 - Funeral


Introduction

1. Read Psa. 23 - Apply.
2. Read John 14:1-6.
3. Read I Cor. 15:20-26.
4. Read Rev. 7:13-17.

Discussion

I. Read 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

- A. A good man.
- B. A good father.
- C. A devoted husband.
- D. A dedicated Christian.
- E. A willing worker.
- F. A concerned man about others -- talk to his family.
- G. A man ready to die.
- H. Remarks of family members:
 1. "Best man I ever knew."
 2. "Can't stop living because someone loved died." 3."He loved his family."



Funeral Sermon
(For Christian)
Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction:

1. Say something about the deceased.
2. Three things that should give great consolation to the family. Three things we know.

Discussion:

1. 2 Timothy 1:12 - "I know whom I have believed."

A. Story of the actor in England -- He was present at a great gathering. He was a very capable reader and was doing various readings. Someone asked him to read the 23rd Psalm. He at first refused, but finally consented if an old preacher in the audience would read it too. He read it with perfection and loud applause followed. Then the old preacher read. This time there was silence and tears. The actor arose and said, "That is why I refused at first. I know the 23rd Psalm, but he knows the shepherd of the 23rd Psalm."

B. How true of this one.

11. Romans 8:18.

III. / Thessalonians 4:13-17.

IV. Revelation 14:13.

Conclusion:

Poem - Tribute "To My Mother-in-law" (aettle Williams)

Funeral Arrangement For Aunt Estelle
July 11, 1992

Place: Ridgeway Funeral Home - Paris, TN.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Preachers: Jim Lowry and James Meadows.

Order of Service:

1. Two songs:

a. My God and I

b. No Tears In Heaven

2. Scripture reading and prayer - James Meadows.

3. Song - How Great Thou Art.

4. Lesson - Jim Lowry.

5. Two songs while viewing the body.

a. Precious Memories

b. Sweet By and By

Funeral of A. J. Chisholm

Scripture Reading - Psa. 90:1-12; 2 Cor. 1:1-5.

Comments:

1. Two weeks ago A.J. helped serve the Lord's Supper at the Central Church of Christ. Today we have come to pay our last respects.
2. A. J. Chisholm was:
 - a. A Christian
 - b. A good husband - Wife's comment.
 - c. A dedicated family man.
 - d. A respected employee of Phillips Fibers - An associate for 28 years commented
 - e. Enjoyed life.
3. His death is a loss, but it can be a definite asset.
4. Rev. 14:13.
5. 1 Cor. 15:35-44.

Funeral For A Child
September 10, 1965

Introduction:

1. Read 2 Sam. 12:22-23; 18:33; Job. 1:20-21.
2. Talk about the circumstances and what David did.
3. Reemphasize verse 23. In this David:

Discussion:

1. Recognized Two Things

A. He could not bring the child back - "Can I bring him back again?"

1. He had done all he could while the child lived.
2. He resigned himself to what had happened and determined to make the most of it. Cf. Rom. 8:28; also I Thess. 4:1 3-1 8.

B. The child could not return to him in this life. II.

Resolved to go to the child.

- A. He resolved to so live that he could go to live with God where the child is. They are pure. Mt. 18:3.
- B. Every one must prepare to live with God. **In.** 14:1-3; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

FAITHFUL ELDER
Funeral of Aaron Swanson
October 2, 1983

Introduction: Funeral services are always sad because we will miss the one that has died, but some funeral services are happy occasions. Such is this one because brother Aaron Swanson has reached another milestone in the journey of life--the journey to be with God in eternity. It has been my privilege to know brother Swanson since 1960 and to work in a preacher-elder relationship for 13 years. During all these years I think I got to know him as well as anyone outside his family. I know that he wouldn't want me to say much about him, but there are a few things that I know to be true and dare not lose the opportunity to let his example live for all of us.

Discussion:

- I. He was a good man. Acts 11:22-24.
 - II. He was a Christian.
 - III. He was a good husband. Eph. 5.
 - IV. He was a good father.
 - V. He was a good elder.
 - VI. He was a man with strong convictions.
 - VII. He was a man that was truly concerned about lost people.
- VII. Conclusion:
1. A scripture that is most appropriate - 1 Thess. 4: 13- 18.
 2. David Lipscomb at his wife's funeral.

Funeral Sermon
April 22, 1968 - Roland Cantrell - 2:00 p.m.
(Died From Bums)
Job 14:1, 2 in. 14:1-3, Rev. 22:14

Introduction:

1. Read or quote the verses.
2. For the past six years it has been my privilege to know the deceased and his family. During that period of time I have been associated with them in so many ways--his wife as my secretary, Bible Study, social visits, problems--and I learned to love the deceased for many things. He had his weaknesses and faults, as all men do, but he loved life, he loved his family, and he always made those who visited in his home feel welcome. The deceased was never one to complain or say too much about his own problems, but always seemed more interested in what he could do to help others.
3. I'm confident the deceased would want his death to be useful to the living and it can be just that.
4. It reminds us:

Discussion:

- I. That death is certain - Heb. 9:27.
- II. That death is uncertain - 1 Sam. 20:6; Jas. 4:13,14.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MARY LUNA

February 12, 2002

Introduction, Scripture Reading & Prayer	David Anguish
Song	Michael Semore
Reading & Remarks	Bob McConnell
Remarks	James Meadows
	Brad McAfee
Song	Michael Semore
Remarks	Edward Myers
	Richard Comm
	Bill Pratt
Song	Michael Semore
Closing Remarks	David Anguish
	Scott Cody
Song: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" * (* Ask all friends to stand)	Michael Semore
Dismissal	Jeff Shackelford (Funeral Home)

Representative)

On behalf of the family of _____ I want to relay their thanks to each one of you for being here today. This is such a tremendous tribute.

We gather here today to honor the memory of _____ and to celebrate his Home-going. We also gather to comfort his family by our words and through our presence. We also gather to hear a word from God about the realities of life, death, and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

You are all here today because your lives were touched in some way by _____. You are his family, or his friends, brother or sister in Christ.: You could share, if you were standing where I stand, the many things he meant to you and the many ways he touched your life. Our memories will continue to live on in our hearts - and those memories will become more precious, and highly valued in our future. Their worth is far more valuable than words can describe. And each

of you could give testimony of how highly you thought of _____ by your presence here today.

_____ leaves his wife _____, etc.

Our sympathy and prayers are certainly with you in this time of loss. But we must remember that

_____ also leaves behind all the rest of us as well his friends and church family.

How do you measure a life? What standard do you use to say someone was a success? I believe

_____ got the most that he could out of life. -

You may measure a person's life by how long they lived. You can measure a person's life by how much money they made. You can measure a person's life by their possessions.

_____ was successful in everything he did. And there is nothing wrong with that in the right perspective.

Life was good to _____. He made the most of his years on this earth. He had a good long life on this earth. Some have lived longer, some have not lived as long. We can be thankful for the length of life he enjoyed.

We can be thankful that he had the quality of life to the end to share with his family and friends.

_____ was blessed with a loving wife. A son, and a grand son. His family was the dearest thing to him.

One of his noted passage in his Bible is from **Psalm 128:5-6 May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, 6 and may you live to see your children's children.** No greater tribute to a husband and father than that.

_____ loved his country. His family had made the ultimate sacrifice for America and that sacrifice was not going to be in vain.

loved the church. He served as a

longer than I've been around.

Personal comments about the deceased person.

Ps 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

Message

As we gather here today to remember the dear and precious life of _____ I know that many of you are dealing with mixed emotions. On the one hand, there are emotions of great sadness. Sadness not for _____ because' _____ is in a far better place, but sadness because we have lost a dear loved one.

I know question that many are lead to ask is why? I'm tempted ask sometimes, Why not? We are told that life is going to be short. Our bodies were not meant to last forever. The apostle Paul addressed this in **2 Cor 4:16-5:1 - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. The Bible says in 2 Cor 5:6-8 "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."**

And for the Christian there is no greater joy than to be in the presence of the One that loves them like no one else can.

You see _____ had a relationship that carried some wonderful promises found in John chapter 14:1-6. Let me read that portion of scripture to you. **John 14:1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

I. The First Promise to Christians is that We Don't have to Fear Death. Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled"

A. We are troubled when we don't know what is going to happen when we die, but Jesus has taken the fear out of dying.

1. He has conquered the grave and death so there needs to be no fear in our eternal future.

2. **Rev 1:17-18 "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.**

3. Do you know what the good news is this morning? Death had no hold on Him nor does it have a hold on us.

4. Because Christ conquered death there should be no fear for the Christian because through Christ we also conquer death.

B. We are Troubled when we view death as an end instead of a beginning:

1. **2 Cor 5:1 "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,"**

2. _____ life is not over, as a matter of fact, it has just begun.

3. _____ has shed the temporary for the eternal, the tarnished for the spotless and the passing for the everlasting.

4. Yes our earthly bodies die, however our heavenly bodies endure for all eternity.

5. I love how the bible puts all this in perspective.

6. **2 Peter 3:8-9 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

7. Everyone here knows that it was _____ desire to go home to be with the Lord and there's nothing more that he wanted. And if you talked with him for a short while you would realize that he understood what Jesus meant when He said "**Don't let your hearts be troubled**". I think trouble was the last thing on

mind.

8. Not only can we face death without fear,

II. The Second Promise is Jesus Prepares a Place for Believer's in Heaven. What has He Prepared?

A. **Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."**

1. A place with no more sorrow or crying.

2. Heaven is a place where the hurts and disappointment of this world have no more sting.

3. Where the frustrations of life are replaced with unspeakable joys.

4. Where the pains of life are not permitted and failures no longer control us.

B. A place with no more pain.

1. Heaven has no handicap parking places. There are not pharmacies and prescriptions to fill.

2. Heaven doesn't have hospitals, nursing homes, or rehabilitation centers. 3. The days of aches and pains. The trips to the doctors have ceased. C. Heaven is a place of Great beauty.

1. Let me give you a small glimpse of what Heaven will be like.

2. **Rev 21:18-19 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.**

3. Rev 21:21-24 The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty

and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

4. Rev 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

III. The Third Promise found in John 14 is that He Personally Receives Us. John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

A. There was a moment when;.. moved from this world to the eternal.

1. The first image he saw was Jesus Christ.
2. He was there with His arms wide open to receive him in to that great mansion that He has prepared for all His children.
3. And for _____ he experienced a love that we cant even understand.
4. A love that forgives ever failure that he had in his life.
5. A love that mends the hurts only he knew.
6. A love that understood every feeling that he had.
7. It is an unconditional love that completely satisfies the longing of his soul.

IV. The Last Promise is that there is only One-way to Enter Heaven.

A. Thomas, **Lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?** 1-Jesus said to Thomas, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

2. More than anything _____ understood this. He understood that without a relationship with the Savior there was no hope of heaven.
3. He understood that Christ came to take away the sins of the world and that included his.
4. They love the Lord. They love the Church and the church loves them and their family.
5. There is no greater assurance in life than to be right with the Lord.

Conclusion:

I know it's _____ desire that each one of you have the same relationship he had with the Savior and many of you do. However, there might be some who have never given thought to your eternal future, and you may be asking yourself where would I go if I were to leave this world?

This would be a good time to allow the life of _____ to serve as an example of

one who was prepared to meet the Lord.
Prayer

Questions About Self-Inflicted Death

- I. Why?
 - A. I do not know.
 - B. Romans 2:16 "On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus."
 - C. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

- II. Where is our loved one?
 - A. I do not know.
 - B. But God does know. Psalm 139:7-12

- III. Does anyone know or care how I feel?
 - A. I do not know how you feel, but I do care.
 - B. God knows and cares. 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."
 - C. Jesus knows and cares. Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."
 - D. Go to Jesus for help.
 - 1. Not drugs, alcohol or worldly pursuits.
 - 2. Hebrews 11:25 "Choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."
 - 3. Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

THE TWO APPOINTMENTS Hebrews 9:27

James Meadows

Introduction:

1. Hearts are broken and grief-stricken on occasions like this. Close friends and neighbors of the family strive for words to express concern, but fail to find the one needed.
2. Friends, we are gathered to do the last that human hands can do for the deceased one. Her life has been long on the earth, but then just a vapor (Psa. 90:10; James 4:14).
3. I did not know the deceased one personally, thus it would ill behoove me to try to tell you about her. Those that knew her have spoken to me saying that she was a faithful Christian and a woman well thought of.
4. We do not know what life is. We know that with it we stand, without it we lie here (Gen. 35:18).
5. We do know that life leaves the body as it has left this one and knowing this we want to talk about the two appointments we all must keep. (Emphasize that we understand about appointments.)

Discussion:

I. Death is the First Appointment.

A. This one has already kept the first appointment and her life is known and read of all men (2 Cor. 3:2). It cannot be changed.

B. Two ways to look at this appointment:

1. The sinner can see it as:

- a. The end of all opportunity to prepare.
- b. With fear and dread because it means the end of all opportunity to prepare to keep the second appointment, thus condemnation (Matt. 25:41; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

2. The Christian can see it as:

- a. The putting off of the earthly tabernacle (2 Cor. 5:1).
- b. As a gain instead of a loss (Phil. 1:21).
- c. As a step closer to the enjoyment of that prepared home (John 14:13).

II. The Judgment is the Second Appointment

- A. All men will be resurrected (John 5:28,29).
- B. All men will stand before the great white throne of God (Rev. 20:11-15).

III. In View of These Two Appointments All Men Ought to be Sure Their Name is in the Book of Life

- A. Only those whose names are in this book will enter heaven (Rev. 21:27).
- B. One gets his name enrolled in this book by keeping the commandments (Rev. 22:14).
- C. One keeps his name enrolled in this book by faithfulness (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion:

1. Friends, is your name enrolled in the book of life and are you ready to keep the two appointments?
2. Our prayer for those that remain behind is that they may realize that these flowers, our presence, is but our feeble way of saying that we sympathize with you and stand ready to help. May God bless you.