Funerals and Eulogies

Why the Study?

- Please God in all things
- Avoid pagan or Catholic traditions
- Follow the example and principles of scripture
- Maximize the glory of God in all we do
- Provide best witness and conviction of gospel truth

Is There a Problem?

- Paganism and Catholicism corrupt many things
- For example, we have had to reject many holidays
- For example, they turn marriage into holy matrimony
- Also, they turn the Lord's Prayer into rote praying
- Also, they justify and promote burning of the dead

Getting Mommy Ready for the Oven



The Oven Is Beside the Fridge



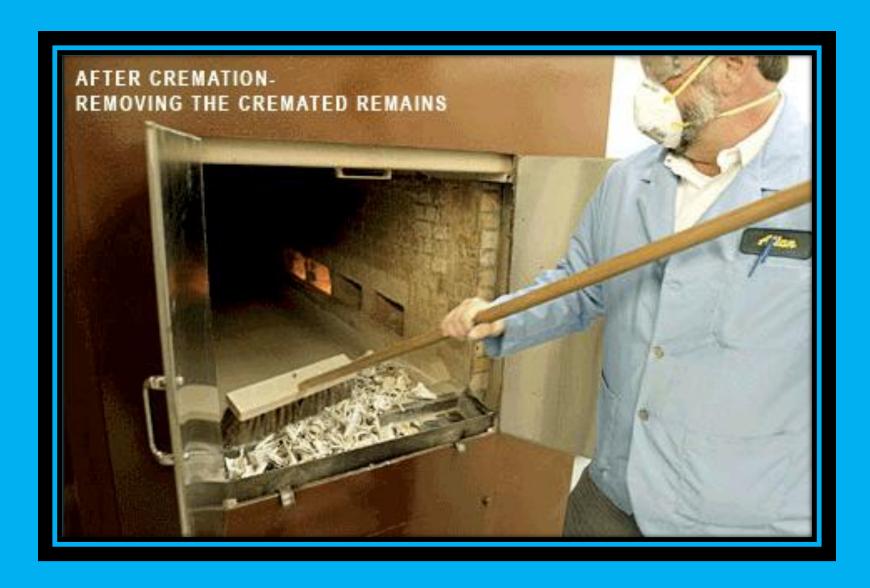
Put Mommy in the Oven



Make Sure the Oven Is Very Hot!



Now Mommy Looks Like This!



It Looks Too Much Like Mommy



So Let's Grind Her Down to Powder



Now You Can Put Mommy in a Box



Or Even Your 12-Year-Old Friend



Who Started this Profane Practice?

- Hindus in the dark, dark nation of India
- They think they are helping the spirit leave the body
- They want the spirit to go far away to the Great Spirit
- It is usually done outside the oldest son lights it!
- But they do bury the holy men of Hinduism! \odot

They Put Their Mommies on Wood



And Brother Gets to Light the Fire



He Plays Until Mommy Is All Gone



Cremation Is Devil Worship

- Your body is not yours it is owned by your Creator
- Your body is not yours it was bought by your Savior
- Therefore you are to glorify Jehovah God with it
- Burial was very important throughout the Bible
- Even if burial was difficult they did whatever it took

Cremation Is Devil Worship

Do you want to know more about cremation?

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/cremation.htm

But We Need to Study Closer

- What about funerals?
- What about eulogies?
- What about mourning and weeping?
- What about mausoleums?
- What about organ donations? ... blood transfusions?
- Is the body the temple of the Holy Ghost?

Just Like We Study Weddings

- We reject the Catholic sacrament of holy matrimony
- There is no priest or pastor necessary for a wedding
- We emphasize the parents and the celebration
- We emphasize the covenant, for the Bible tells us so
- We have a detailed study of Bible wedding features

What Is a Funeral?

- It is a ceremony or service before burying the dead
- It varies from nation to nation, culture to culture
- It varies from religion to religion
- It varies with the choice of burial or cremation

We approach it from a Bible Christian perspective

It Is a Christian Liberty, But for ...

- Paganism cremation, necromancy, body marks, etc.
- Catholicism Extreme Unction, purgatory, Mass, etc.
- Arminianism save the lost at any cost, etc.
- Adventism soul sleep, etc.
- Russellites annihilation, etc.

It Is a Christian Liberty, So ...

- You can do what you want within the rules of liberty.
- You do not need a pastor or priest of any kind.
- Have it at home and do it all yourself including burial.
- Have a slide show, write a book, or video flying birds.
- Have open-casket, closed-casket, or no casket!

It Is a Christian Liberty, So ...

- You can do what you want within the rules of liberty.
- Traditional attire is black, conservative clothing.
- Traditional conduct is calm, quiet, sober, reflective.
- We follow tradition i.e. wedding rings for no offence.
- It can be at a church, funeral home, home, cemetery.

What Is Christian Liberty?

Do you want to know more about Christian Liberty?

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/christian-liberty.pdf

What About Mourning & Weeping?

- Is mourning a pagan custom of hopeless religion?
- Is crying and weeping a sign of weak faith?
- Do both show too much human affection?

- Should we stoically put on a dry face and be tough?
- Should we sing songs of joy for departed in heaven?

Example of Abraham for Sarah

"And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah.... and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying ..." (Gen 23:1-3).

Example of Abraham for Sarah

Was Abraham mourning and weeping for Sarah?
Did he come and do this before a dead corpse?
Was he the friend of God and walked with God?
Is he one of the great examples of faith in the Bible?

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Was Abraham in some low position of mourning?
Did he make formal arrangements for a proper burial.
Would it have been easier and cheaper to cremate her?
Did Abraham know Sarah was in heaven? Why mourn?

Example of Isaac's Death

"And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob" (Gen 27:41).

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Esau knew Isaac's death had to have days of mourning. So there was clearly a tradition in place for mourning. These were the patriarchs – were they weak in faith? Conduct during the days of mourning was altered.

Example of Joseph's "Death"

"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 37:33-35).

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Altering your clothes was part of mourning tradition? The "always white" rule of Solomon must not apply! Jacob knew Joseph was in heaven — why did he mourn? Why did Jacob bawl and weep inconsolably?

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So Jacob got more involved than just an hour of crying? Though he knew his most godly son was in heaven? Jacob had had a rough life, and Joseph was dear to him. We do not presume a lack of hope ... just lots of love!

Example of Jacob's Death

"And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel."

Genesis 50:1-2

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Did Jacob hug and kiss Joseph back?
No, he was a dead corpse!
Joseph returned the kind of love his father had for him.

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He did not cremate him or do anything pagan to him. Embalming retards decomposition — it is not religious. Joseph was later embalmed for a similar trip to Canaan.

Example of Jacob's Death

"And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days ... and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days." (Gen 50:3,10).

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Jacob was mourned for 70 days in Egypt before the trip. Joseph made a great and sore lamentation for 7 more! The funeral procession was huge and attention-getting. Jacob's sons buried their father in the family cemetery.

Example of Moses' Death

"And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended" (Deut 34:7-8).

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Thirty days! Had they no faith? This generation of faith? How do you weep for 30 days? Accidental? Intentional? Why didn't Joshua stop the people from such excess?

Example of Aaron's Death

"And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount. And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel" (Num 20:28-29).

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Was Moses an exception due to his greatness?
The whole nation mourned for thirty days!
When did you last mourn thirty days for anyone?

Example of David for Abner

"And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier. And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept" (II Sa 3:31-32).

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So ... clothes have something to do with mourning?
And ... it was done before a dead body of a person?
Was David low in faith ... or the man after God's heart?
Was David emotional since Abner was a close relative?

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David followed the bier ... a funeral procession? Amen!
A funeral procession to the cemetery for the burial?
A graveside service with David bawling like a baby?
Did David have faith in God's election to sort things out?

Example of Wise Woman of Tekoah

"And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feight thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead" (II Sam 14:2)

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David would have rejected pagan mourning tradition.

Observe that mourning involves mourning apparel.

Funeral tradition is black or dark conservative clothes.

"And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth" (Mark 5:39).

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

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What About Eulogies?

- A eulogy is a speech or writing in commendation of the character or services of a person that has died.
- Some think praising good men is foolish or sinful.
- In spite of much Bible evidence for praise (Rom 16).
- What about praising the virtues of a dead person?
- Hate both ditches on all topics we want God's balance.

- It is long, filled with praise, and only positive.
- Saul was not that great of a man, but he was the king.
- David had exceptional graciousness and loyalty.
- Saul had tried to kill David on numerous occasions.
- David knew God had replaced Saul with himself.
- It is found in II Samuel 1:17-27.

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: ... The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain. upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

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How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

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- God obviously loved David and was merciful to him.
- · Why?

- Why was one man so preferred above other men?
- Why did God like David above all his brethren?
- Because he loved grace and mercy to others!

Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight. With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

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This is why God was so merciful to David — his mercy!

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Widows at Joppa

"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.... Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them" (Acts 9:36-39).

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Who gave this particular eulogy? I need two names.
The Holy Spirit of God and Luke!

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Here the widows are eulogizing Tabitha to Simon Peter. Peter did not correct, rebuke, or warn. He raised her!

Paul Eulogized Himself

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim 4:6-8).

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Being a prophet, and now being aged, Paul was to die. You can only talk like Paul if you have lived like Paul.

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Paul stated good fighting, a finished course, and faith. But it was not only Paul ... for the Holy Spirit inspired it. You can only talk like Paul if you have lived like Paul.

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- Provide best witness and conviction of gospel truth

We Have a Funeral and Burial Soon

- Eva Marie Crosby was a good wife, mother, member
- Her works have preceded her, and she is in heaven
- Her family has made choices of liberty to honor her
- Are you committed, as for Bruce, to honor the dead?
- Funerals, burials, mourning, eulogies are scriptural.
- The details of doing them are family liberties.