

Funeral Discourse

PLEASE NOTE: Opening with prayer is optional. The purpose of the talk is to uphold Jehovah as a God of love and mercy and at the same time bring comfort to the bereaved. Give a fine witness concerning the truth, but also make your talk warm and personal. Not all points and scriptures need to be used. Adapt the material to match the circumstances of the deceased and the needs of grieving ones. While not overpraising the deceased, you may use events from his life throughout the talk to show how those in attendance can benefit from his example. Use good balance in this regard. You may choose to arrange a well-rehearsed interview with a brother in good standing who knew the deceased well. Any use of humor should be moderate. The dignity of the occasion should be preserved. The talk need not exceed 30 minutes. Do not invite the audience to make expressions about the deceased, as this could introduce inappropriate or unscriptural elements into the program. An appropriate Kingdom song may be used to open or close the program or both. A brief prayer at the close is fitting. When arrangements are made to go to the grave, it is good to consider quite briefly our Kingdom hope, reading one or two scriptures, such as Job 14:14, 15 and 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57. This service may also be closed with prayer, thanking Jehovah for the resurrection hope

REMARKS REGARDING THE DECEASED

[Use any that apply and are appropriate]

Give details regarding age, birth, when married, surviving family, and so forth

Share the dedication record of the deceased, including privileges of service

Highlight exemplary qualities displayed by the deceased (Ec 7:1)

WE NEED COMFORT AT TIMES OF LOSS

Grief is a normal reaction to the loss of a loved one (Ge 23:2; 37:34, 35)

When Lazarus died, Jesus showed sympathy and provided comfort for those grieving (Joh 11:23-26, 33-35)

Jehovah God has tender feelings for those who grieve and promises to comfort them (Ps 34:18; 147:3)

THE BIBLE GIVES A HOPE FOR THE DEAD

Jehovah is the God of wisdom, justice, love, and power

Death was not part of his original purpose for mankind

Death is the result of Adam's disobedience (Ge 2:7, 15-17; 3:19)

All of Adam's descendants have inherited death (Ro 5:12)

God has provided a hope that is sure to be realized (Isa 55:10, 11; Re 21:4)

The Bible clearly tells us the condition of the dead

The soul is mortal (Eze 18:4, 20)

The dead are unconscious (Ps 146:4; Ec 9:5, 10)

The Bible gives hope that millions who have died will live again

The resurrection hope is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Mt 20:28)

Christ's resurrection provides a guarantee (1Co 15:22, 23)

God has appointed Jesus to raise the dead (Joh 5:28, 29)

Anointed Christians are resurrected to heavenly life (1Co 15:51-54; Re 20:4, 6)

Jesus' "other sheep" will be resurrected to life in the earthly Paradise (Joh 10:16; Lu 23:43)

Those who lived and died without an opportunity to understand and apply Bible truth also have the prospect of a resurrection (Ac 24:15)

HOW WE CAN BENEFIT FROM BEING HERE

A funeral reminds us of the brevity and uncertainty of life (Ec 9:11)

The reality of death makes us think about how we are using our life (Ps 90:12)

By the way we live, we can make “a good name” with Jehovah God (Ec 7:1-4)

Jesus said for us to store up treasures in heaven (Mt 6:19-21)

By our zealous works and godly conduct, we share in sanctifying Jehovah’s name (Pr 27:11)

The resurrection hope provides an incentive to learn and do God’s will (1Co 15:58; 1Ti 2:3, 4)

Those who do so can be certain that they will soon see their resurrected loved ones again
We should use this occasion and the days ahead to comfort one another (1Th 5:11)

As fellow believers, we can remind one another of our sure hope and provide emotional support (Pr 17:17)

We prayerfully look to Jehovah to give needed strength until he provides permanent relief (Ps 9:9, 10)